

89-783

No.

Supreme Court, U.S.  
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IN THE  
**Supreme Court of the United States**  
OCTOBER TERM, 1989

INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, [REDACTED],  
*Petitioner,*

v.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC., [REDACTED]  
*Respondent.*

**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

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## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. In an action under § 2, First of the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. § 152, wherein—

- (a) it is claimed that the carrier breached its duty to exert every reasonable effort to make agreement; and
- (b) the district court found that the carrier's principal stockholder (who established the carrier's bargaining objective) advised the Union that he insisted on greater concessions from a predominantly female workforce because they were "second incomes" rather than "breadwinners"; and
- (c) the district court concluded that if the "breadwinner" reference was "truly a basis for decision, IFFA [the Union] would doubtless be right" that the carrier had violated its duty under § 2, First—

may the carrier avoid a finding of a violation without proving by a preponderance of evidence that it would have taken the same action even if it had not relied on gender-based stereotypes—as would be the case in an action under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (*Price-Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1775 (1989))?

2. Has a violation of § 2, First been established—contrary to the Court of Appeals' decision based solely on the "clearly erroneous rule"—when the district court found that:

- (a) the airline's principal stockholder advised the Union that he insisted on greater salary and work rule concessions from a predominantly female workforce because they were "second incomes" rather than "breadwinners";
- (b) during the course of negotiations, the airline engaged in many instances of unjustified refusal to supply information or to answer questions;

(i)

- (c) the Union's [other] various claims of misconduct in bargaining [claims including, *inter alia*, written agreement with another union concerning concessions to be obtained by the carrier from the Union, direct dealing with employees over employment terms, insistence on predictably unacceptable proposals, threats to liquidate the airline if the Union prevailed and implementation of changes in employment terms not subjected to negotiation] may be generally accepted?

### PARTIES

The Petitioner is Independent Federation of Flight Attendants ("IFFA"-or "the Union"), an unincorporated labor organization designated as the bargaining representative under the Railway Labor Act for employees of Trans World Airlines, Inc. in the Flight Attendant craft or class.

The Respondent is Trans World Airlines, Inc. ("TWA"), a "common carrier by air" within the meaning of Title II (45 U.S.C. §§ 181, *et seq.*) of the Railway Labor Act.

There are no other parties to the proceeding in the Court of Appeals whose judgment is sought to be reviewed.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>OPINIONS BELOW .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>JURISDICTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>STATUTES INVOLVED .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF THE CASE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Summary Of Facts .....	3
The District Court Decision .....	7
The Court of Appeals Decision .....	11
<b>REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
I. DOES A FACTUAL FINDING THAT THE CARRIER ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED A BARGAINING POSITION ADVERSE TO ITS FEMALE EMPLOYEES, FOR REASONS ASSERTEDLY INCLUDING THE PERCEPTION OF SUCH FEMALE EMPLOYEES AS "SECOND INCOMES", COMPEL A CONCLUSION THAT THE CARRIER VIOLATED § 2, FIRST OF THE RLA, UNLESS THE CARRIER PROVES THAT IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SAME ACTION IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH CONSIDERATION? .....	13
A. The Decisions Below Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In <i>Price-Waterhouse</i> .....	13
B. The Decisions Below Upset The Harmony Between Title VII And The Federal Labor Laws .....	18

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

	Page
II. DO FACTUAL FINDINGS—THAT A CARRIER (TWA) UNDER THE RLA ENGAGED IN MISCONDUCT, IDENTICAL TO THAT HELD UNDER THE NLRA TO BE BAD FAITH BARGAINING—COMPEL THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CARRIER'S MISCONDUCT BREACHED § 2, FIRST, CAUSED THE IMPASSE AND PROMPTED THE STRIKE, IN THE ABSENCE OF PROOF INTRODUCED BY THE CARRIER TO THE CONTRARY? .....	20
A. The Lower Courts' Holdings, That The RLA Forbids "Surface Bargaining" And "Little Else", Construes § 2, First As Imposing A Lesser Bargaining Obligation Than The NLRA: This Holding Misapplies The Statute And Presents A Conflict With The Second Circuit.....	20
B. The Decisions Below On The Issue Of Denial Of Requested Information Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In <i>Truitt</i> And With Decisions Of Virtually Every Circuit, Including The Eighth Circuit; On The Issue Of Dealing With Other Than The Exclusive Representative, They Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In <i>Virginia Railway</i> ..	23
1. TWA's Refusal To Provide Information..	23
2. TWA's Dealings With Other Than IFFA .....	27
C. The Decisions Below Are Inconsistent With This Court's Decision In <i>NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.</i> The Courts Below Failed To Impose Upon TWA A Burden To Prove That, Despite Its Proven Misconduct, It Did Not Breach § 2, First, An Impasse Would Have Been Reached And A Strike Would Have Occurred .....	28

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

	Page
CONCLUSION .....	30
 APPENDICES	
APPENDIX A. Opinion And Judgment Of The U.S. Court Of Appeals For The Eighth Circuit..	1a
APPENDIX B. Order Of The U.S. Court Of Appeals For The Eighth Circuit Denying Peti- tion For Rehearing And Suggestions For Re- hearing <i>En Banc</i> .....	6a
APPENDIX C. Revised Opinion And Judgment Of The U.S. District Court For The Western District Of Missouri .....	7a
APPENDIX D. Text Of Statutes Involved	
Railway Labor Act .....	69a
Civil Rights Act of 1964 .....	71a
National Labor Relations Act .....	72a
Labor Management Relations Act .....	75a

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases	Page
<i>Alexander v. Gardner-Denver Co.</i> , 415 U.S. 36 (1974) .....	18
<i>Boston Herald-Traveler v. NLRB</i> , 223 F.2d 58 (1st Cir. 1955) .....	24
<i>BRAC v. Florida East Coast Railway Co.</i> , 384 U.S. 238 (1966) .....	20
<i>Chicago &amp; N.W. Ry. Co. v. United Transportation Union</i> , 402 U.S. 570 (1971) .....	8, 21, 22
<i>Chi., R.I. &amp; P. R.R. v. Switchmen's Union</i> , 292 F.2d 61 (2nd Cir. 1961), cert. den., 370 U.S. 936 (1962) .....	22
<i>Curtiss-Wright v. NLRB</i> , 347 F.2d 61 (3rd Cir. 1965) .....	24, 25
<i>Detroit &amp; Toledo Shoreline R.R. v. United Transportation Union</i> , 396 U.S. 142 (1969) .....	20
<i>Elgin, Joliet &amp; Eastern R.R. v. Burley</i> , 325 U.S. 711 (1945) .....	20, 21, 27
<i>Emporium Capwell Co. v. Western Addition Community Organization</i> , 420 U.S. 50 (1975) .....	19
<i>Fibreboard Paper Products v. NLRB</i> , 379 U.S. 203 (1964) .....	26
<i>Franks v. Bowman Transportation Co., Inc.</i> , 424 U.S. 747 (1976) .....	19
<i>Frontiero v. Richardson</i> , 411 U.S. 677 (1973) .....	8, 14, 18
<i>General Electric Co. v. NLRB</i> , 466 F.2d 1177 (6th Cir. 1972) .....	24
<i>Hall v. Ledex, Inc.</i> , 669 F.2d 397 (6th Cir. 1982) .....	8
<i>Independent Federation of Flight Attendants v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.</i> , 819 F.2d 839 (8th Cir. 1987), cert. denied in part, — U.S. —, 108 S.Ct. 1219 (1988), rev'd in part, <i>Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Independent Federation of Flight Attendants</i> , — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1225 (1989) .....	passim
<i>Japan Airlines v. IAM</i> , 538 F.2d 46 (2nd Cir. 1976), aff'g, 389 F. Supp. 27 (1975) .....	22
<i>Mastro Plastics Corp. v. NLRB</i> , 350 U.S. 270 (1956) .....	3
<i>McDonnell-Douglas v. Green</i> , 411 U.S. 792 (1973) .....	17

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES—Continued

	Page
<i>NLRB v. Acme Industrial</i> , 385 U.S. 432 (1967) ....	24, 25
<i>NLRB v. Billion Oldsmobile-Toyota</i> , 700 F.2d 454 (8th Cir. 1983) .....	29
<i>NLRB v. Herman Sausage</i> , 275 F.2d 229 (5th Cir. 1960) .....	29
<i>NLRB v. Montgomery Ward</i> , 133 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1943) .....	29
<i>NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.</i> , 462 U.S. 393 (1983) .....	16, 28, 29
<i>NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.</i> , 351 U.S. 149 (1956) ....	23, 24
<i>NLRB v. Whitin Machine</i> , 217 F.2d 593 (4th Cir. 1954), cert. den., 349 U.S. 905 (1955) .....	24, 25
<i>NLRB v. Yawman and Erbe</i> , 187 F.2d 947 (2nd Cir. 1951) .....	24
<i>Newspaper Guild v. NLRB</i> , 548 F.2d 863 (9th Cir. 1977) .....	24, 25, 26
<i>Price-Waterhouse v. Hopkins</i> , — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1775 (1989) .....	<i>passim</i>
<i>Proctor &amp; Gamble Mfg. Co. v. NLRB</i> , 603 F.2d 1310 (8th Cir. 1979) .....	24, 25
<i>Queen Mary Restaurants v. NLRB</i> , 560 F.2d 403 (9th Cir. 1977) .....	29
<i>Railroad Trainmen v. Jacksonville Terminal Co.</i> , 394 U.S. 369 (1969) .....	21
<i>Seattle-First National Bank v. NLRB</i> , 638 F.2d 1221 (9th Cir. 1981) .....	11
<i>Teamsters v. United States</i> , 431 U.S. 324 (1977) .....	19
<i>Textile Workers v. Lincoln Mills</i> , 353 U.S. 448 (1957) .....	18
<i>Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Hardison</i> , 432 U.S. 63 (1977) .....	19
<i>Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Independent Federa- tion of Flight Attendants</i> , 809 F.2d 483 (8th Cir. 1987), aff'd by equally divided court, 485 U.S. 175 (1988), reh'g denied, — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1358 (1989) .....	2
<i>United Air Lines v. Evans</i> , 431 U.S. 553 (1977) .....	19

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES—Continued

	Page
<i>United Packinghouse Union v. NLRB</i> , 416 F.2d 1126 (D.C. Cir.), cert. den., 396 U.S. 903 (1969) .....	18, 29
<i>Virginia Railway v. System Fed. No. 40</i> , 300 U.S. 515 (1937) .....	23, 27
<i>Wal-Lite Div. of U.S. Gypsum v. NLRB</i> , 484 F.2d 108 (8th Cir. 1973) .....	29-30
<i>Wright Line</i> , 251 NLRB 1083 (1980), <i>enf'd</i> , 662 F.2d 899 (1st Cir. 1981), cert. den., 455 U.S. 989 (1982) .....	29
 Statutes	
28 U.S.C. § 1254(1) .....	2
28 U.S.C. § 1331 .....	7
28 U.S.C. § 1337 .....	7
28 U.S.C. § 2201 .....	7
Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
Labor Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 141(b) .....	20
National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 151 <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
Section 8(a)(5), 29 U.S.C. § 158(a)(5) .....	21
Section 8(d), 29 U.S.C. § 158(d) .....	22
Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. §§ 151 <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
Section 2, First, 45 U.S.C. § 152, First .....	<i>passim</i>
Section 2, Ninth, 45 U.S.C. § 152, Ninth .....	27
 Rules	
Rule 41(b) Federal Rules of Court Procedure .....	7
 Other Authorities	
Cox, <i>The Duty to Bargain in Good Faith</i> , 71 Harv. L.Rev. 1401 (1958) .....	22

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INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,  
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*Petitioner,*

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.,  
*Respondent.*

**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

The Petitioner, IFFA, respectfully prays that a writ of *certiorari* issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit entered August 16, 1989.

**OPINIONS BELOW**

The opinion and judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, reported at 878 F.2d 254, are reprinted as Appendix A<sup>1</sup> hereto. They affirm a judgment and opinion of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, reported at 682 F.Supp. 1003, which is reprinted as Appendix C hereto.

**JURISDICTION**

The judgment of the Court of Appeals was entered on June 28, 1989. On July 21, 1989, IFFA timely filed a Petition for Rehearing and Suggestion for Rehearing *En Banc*. On August 16, 1989, the court below entered an order (reprinted as Appendix B) denying the petition, and also denying petition for rehearing *en banc* by rea-

<sup>1</sup> The pages of the appendices to this petition are referred to as "—a".

son of the lack of a majority of the active judges voting to rehear the case *en banc*. This petition is filed within ninety (90) days of that date. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

### STATUTES INVOLVED

The relevant provisions of the Railway Labor Act [REDACTED] "A" or "the Act"), as amended, (45 U.S.C. §§ 151, *et seq.*), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII") (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, *et seq.*) and the National Labor Relations Act ("NLRA"), as amended, (29 U.S.C. §§ 151, *et seq.*) are reprinted as Appendix D hereto.

### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This is the third case to come before this Court arising out of IFFA's efforts (thus far unsuccessful) to reach an amended collective bargaining agreement with TWA. The first case, "*TWA I*", involved the unilateral implementation of changed terms by TWA upon release to self-help. "*TWA II*" involved the failure of TWA to reinstate certain strikers at the end of an unsuccessful strike resulting from TWA's unilateral changes. *This case centers upon the failed negotiations themselves, and TWA's conduct in those negotiations.*

In *TWA I*, the Eighth Circuit held that TWA's actions in implementing changes about which it had not bargained, including the elimination of the contractual union security provisions, violated the RLA (809 F.2d 483); that decision was affirmed by an equally divided court, 485 U.S. 175 (1988). In *TWA II*, the Eighth Circuit ruled that TWA violated the RLA by denying reinstatement to full-term strikers improperly replaced by (a) trainees who had not yet become Flight Attendants and (b) cross-over Flight Attendants who, during the course of the strike, returned to work (819 F.2d 839). This Court denied *certiorari* as to the unlawful "trainee" replacements, — U.S. —, 108 S.Ct. 1219 (1988), but reversed as to the "crossovers", — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1225 (1989).

As this Court noted, the "trainee" and "crossover" case was predicated on the assumption that striking Flight Attendants were "economic" (rather than unfair labor practice) strikers. However, as the Court also noted (109 S.Ct. at 1229), foreshadowing this Petition, *this* case advances the Union's claim that (1) the IFFA strike was not an economic strike, but rather was caused or prompted by TWA's breach of its § 2, First obligation to "exert every reasonable effort to make agreement", and (2) strikers are therefore "unfair labor practice" strikers, under principles enunciated in *Mastro Plastics Corp. v. NLRB*, 350 U.S. 270 (1956), who are not subject to permanent replacement but rather are entitled, *inter alia*, to their jobs upon their unconditional offer to return to work.

### **Summary Of Facts**

IFFA is the duly certified bargaining representative of TWA Flight Attendants. 85% of the Flight Attendants are female. The International Association of Machinists ("IAM") represents TWA's 10,000 ground employees, 85% of whom are male, including mechanics, helpers, janitors, ramp and fleet service personnel and employees in the dining and commissary units. The Air Line Pilots Association ("ALPA") represents TWA's cockpit crew employees, who are overwhelmingly male.

In the summer of 1985, Carl Icahn gained controlling stock ownership of TWA. To offset the acquisition costs, Icahn determined to obtain concessions from its employees, including those represented by unions (17a).

Icahn first reached agreement with ALPA. Notable in that written agreement was a provision committing Icahn to "best efforts to achieve aggregate cost savings in pay and benefits at 20 to 22%" from IFFA-represented employees (17a).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, appendix references refer to the district court decision.

Icahn next reached agreement with the IAM. The court characterized the new IAM contract as a 15% wage cut (17a). Undisputed, in fact, is the clear record evidence that the agreement with the IAM, calling for no work rule changes or headcount reductions, consisted of yearly concessions of \$49 Million (in hourly wage reductions and reduced contributions to a supplemental retirement plan)<sup>3</sup> from the IAM's 10,000 members. The IAM concessions represented a 15% reduction of total IAM payroll cost (\$336 Million), or 11% of IAM aggregate labor costs of \$465 Million.

Icahn's negotiations with IFFA were scheduled to go last (17a). In the first individual bargaining meeting between Icahn and IFFA representatives, Icahn insisted, over IFFA objections, that IFFA grant concessions greater than those accepted from the IAM (18a). When asked why, by IFFA's principal negotiator, Icahn responded, *inter alia*, that those represented by the IAM were "breadwinners" with families at home to support, while "you girls are second incomes" who "don't need the money" (18a, 62a).<sup>4</sup>

Upon IFFA's refusal to accede to his demand, Icahn learned of a pending (pre-Icahn) TWA bargaining proposal to IFFA inconsistent with his own demands. He ordered the withdrawal of that pending proposal (ac-

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<sup>3</sup> Also undisputed is that both the IAM and ALPA agreements contained a "snapback" returning salaries and benefits to pre-concession levels at the end of the contract term; Icahn and TWA, at all times, refused to grant IFFA a snapback.

<sup>4</sup> The district court also found that Icahn repeated the "breadwinner" comments up to the point of the strike (19a). It specifically credited the "[f]irm trial testimony" of IFFA's principal negotiator (18a) and "generally" credited that of all of IFFA's principal witnesses (47a). That testimony, though not noted in the decision, reflects that Icahn repeatedly said, "[I]t is just like I told you all along . . . some of these women, they got rich husbands, . . . they don't need this job, anyway"; and "[T]hey should have married a pilot, should have married a rich husband." These statements further reflect Icahn's (and thus TWA's) stereotyped perception of women's role as "second incomes".

complished in October, 1985) and the introduction of a new more onerous proposal seeking greater concessions. The new proposal, made in December, 1985, "effectively restarted negotiations by demanding concessions that more than doubled the demands made . . . by TWA in May" (20a).

The December, 1985 TWA bargaining proposals [which were in fact later implemented on March 7, 1986 and described by TWA as "fewer people [jobs lost] performing more work for less pay"] were valued by TWA's chief negotiator as representing the airline's desired savings of \$88 Million annually. Icahn valued the demanded concessions at \$110 Million annually (21a).<sup>5</sup> These later-to-be implemented demands were "predictably unacceptable to IFFA and its members" (54-55a). Undisputed record evidence is that a 22% salary reduction represented \$44 Million of the total concessions sought; numerous work rule changes (fewer employees performing more work) represented the remainder.

Between TWA's introduction of the new and more onerous bargaining demands in December and the expiration of the 30-day countdown on March 7, 1986, IFFA requested information and data. IFFA sought, both verbally and in writing, the value or savings TWA placed on each of its proposals (including numerous independent proposals included within some 22 generally numbered proposals), TWA's method of calculation of such values, and also the nature and extent of concessions made by other employees.<sup>6</sup> But those requests fell on deaf ears. TWA "generally" supplied "basic" estimates as to its generally numbered proposals; requested

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<sup>5</sup> Thus, the December TWA proposal, ultimately implemented by TWA, represented concessions of twice as much (\$88-110 Million) from roughly half as many (6,000) Flight Attendants as compared to the \$49 Million accepted from 10,000 IAM employees.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to the concessions accepted from ALPA and IAM, *supra*, undisputed record evidence establishes that TWA imposed concessions, in salary only, on its non-union employees, of between 14% and 15%.

details, calculations and breakdowns on the proposals were available but not supplied (25a). There were "many instances . . . in which TWA failed or refused to supply information or to answer IFFA's questions" (48a).

Though not specifically related in the district court decision, uncontested evidence<sup>7</sup> revealed other TWA misconduct between December, 1985 and the March 7, 1986 exercise of self-help. This misconduct included threats to liquidate the airline if IFFA prevailed; written comments, to all TWA employees, disparaging IFFA and its leadership; and, *in advance of the self-help date*, issuance of directives and instructions to departmental personnel to implement TWA's demands on the self-help dates.

Upon the failure to reach agreement by midnight, March 6, 1986, TWA implemented its December proposals (34a). IFFA commenced a strike in response. The strike ended with IFFA's unconditional offer to return to work on May 17, 1986 (*TWA II*, 109 S.Ct. at 1228). In the interim TWA made other changes in employment terms, and insisted on additional demands, not previously raised in the RLA bargaining process (34-35a). TWA's post-strike conduct included "altering adversely work rules that were never in negotiation" and "further stiffening of demands" as a condition of agreement (47a). In addition, TWA implemented further changes which were not the subject of negotiation with IFFA, but instead the result of direct discussion with rank-and-file employees represented by IFFA.<sup>8</sup>

The painstakingly slow process of reinstatement of some 5,000 full-term striking Flight Attendants, assumed thus far to be "economic" strikers, is recited in this

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<sup>7</sup> This evidence consisted of written documents authored by TWA, TWA bargaining notes, videotape recordings of public statements by Carl Icahn, and the generally credited testimony of IFFA witnesses.

<sup>8</sup> Although this also was not specifically noted by the district court, it is amply demonstrated by undisputed record evidence consisting of TWA-authored memoranda.

Court's decision in *TWA II*. Suffice it to say that 197 of the strikers were returned to their jobs at the conclusion of the strike. All others remained subject to recall as vacancies later arose. It would be more than three years before the last striker was offered the opportunity to regain her job.

### The District Court Decision

IFFA commenced this action by filing a complaint on March 4, 1986 in the district court claiming that TWA had breached its duty under § 2, First of the Act,<sup>9</sup> and seeking to enjoin the threatened March 7 unilateral implementation of changed terms and conditions. However, IFFA's request for preliminary injunction was denied, the changes were implemented, and the strike commenced. Through subsequent amendments to the complaint, IFFA requested, *inter alia*, a declaration that full-term strikers were "unfair labor practice" strikers entitled to full reinstatement retroactive to IFFA's unconditional offer to return to work on May 17, 1986, backpay from that date forward, and restoration to all Flight Attendants (strikers and non-strikers) of pre-self-help employment terms.

The district court found that this was a case of first impression, noting that: "Never before this case has a court been asked to examine . . . a scenario of bargaining sessions, for the purpose of finding an employer violation [of the RLA] . . . imposing . . . severe sanctions . . . applicable to an 'unfair labor practice strike' under the NLRA" (37a).

IFFA presented its evidence over 31 trial days, concluding in mid-March, 1987. At that point the court recessed the trial, having invited TWA to file a motion to dismiss under Rule 41(b) F.R.Civ.P. Nearly one year

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<sup>9</sup> The jurisdiction of the district court was invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 2201, as the case arose under a law of the United States regulating commerce, the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. §§ 151, *et seq.*

later, after lengthy briefs and oral argument, the court granted TWA's motion on March 3, 1988 and revised its decision on March 9, 1988. TWA had presented no live testimony and virtually no evidence, other than portions of deposition transcript designated after IFFA had completed its case.

The court rejected IFFA's claims that a carrier's violation of § 2, First may be established by proof of individual acts of misconduct, themselves constituting *per se* violations<sup>10</sup> of that Section's mandate. The court held, "[I]t is clear . . . that the *RLA* is to be construed as forbidding 'surface bargaining' and little, if anything, further", citing *Chicago & N.W. Ry. Co. v. United Transportation Union*, 402 U.S. 570 (1971), (41a).

As to IFFA's allegation that TWA breached its § 2, First obligation by insisting on disproportionately greater and more onerous concessions from Flight Attendants than from male work groups, because they were perceived as "second incomes" rather than "breadwinners", the district court found virtually all facts as alleged by IFFA. Thus it found that (1) Icahn made the statements attributed to him (18a and 62a); (2) Icahn's statements "tend to disclose his thinking" and "may well reflect the basis of TWA's position . . . through the strike" (61a); and (3) if the breadwinner reference were "truly a basis of decision, IFFA would doubtless be right" because "[I]f a private employer were to establish a wage scale favoring men because of such a theory, it would doubtless violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"<sup>11</sup> (62a, emphasis supplied). The court nonetheless rejected IFFA's claim of unlawful motivation on its own initiative and without any requisite showing by TWA that it

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<sup>10</sup> E.g., bargaining with the motivation or intent to discriminate on the basis of sex; persistent refusal to provide relevant and necessary information in bargaining; establishing Flight Attendant terms of employment through dealings with other than IFFA representatives.

<sup>11</sup> Citing *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 411 U.S. 677, 681 (1973) and *Hall v. Ledex, Inc.*, 669 F.2d 397, 399 (6th Cir. 1982).

would have taken the same action absent such considerations. Instead, it simply concluded that the "second income" and "breadwinner" remarks constituted "*mere rationalization*" (63a) or "*a diabolical alternative*" (20a, emphasis supplied). Also without proof by TWA, the district court further concluded that the "real reasons for the IAM differential . . . must have been" (1) the IAM's ability to inflict greater strike damage<sup>12</sup> and (2) a perception of greater skill of those in the IAM as compared with newly hired Flight Attendants (64a, emphasis supplied). The district court went on to summarize its reasoning and its basis for decision by stating:

*IFFA's theory, that the breadwinner reference reveals Icahn's motivation would signify that he is a devotee of the Marxist or utopian distribution system, "to each according to his needs." While even normally doctrinaire capitalists may be influenced by such motivations occasionally . . . , it is entirely implausible that a hard-boiled "corporate raider" (to use the label of the Court of Appeals) would subscribe to that method of setting wages for middle income personal* (65a, emphasis supplied).<sup>13</sup>

Thus the district court neither imposed nor shifted any burden of proof upon TWA to show, by preponderance of evidence or otherwise, that it would have taken the same action in the absence of the "second income" consideration. The court simply concluded, instead, that: "There has been no persuasive showing that sex stereotyping governed or influenced Icahn's economic demands . . ." (65a).

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<sup>12</sup> In support of this finding the district court cited, not testimony or proof adduced by TWA, but only (1) a trial concession by an IFFA witness and (2) testimony heard in another case, between TWA and the IAM, that the latter was capable of crippling the airline (64a). While both tended to establish IAM power, neither provided proof that Icahn and TWA took their action against Flight Attendants because of IAM power or that they would have taken such action irrespective of the expressed "second income" perceptions.

<sup>13</sup> Not surprisingly, this Marxist-capitalist speculation was not based on any facts or argument advanced by TWA.

As to IFFA's other claims concerning TWA's breach of its § 2, First obligation to exert every reasonable effort to make agreement, the court similarly found facts as alleged by IFFA. Thus, the "*many instances*" . . . "in which TWA failed or refused to supply information or to answer IFFA's questions" were "*unjustified*" (48a, emphasis supplied). Nevertheless—the district court concluded that IFFA had not proven that TWA acted in bad faith, reasoning that "the potential [of undisclosed information] for shaping an agreement between the parties has not been demonstrated . . . except in the abstract" (25a), and that no information sought "would have filled the chasm" between TWA demands and IFFA offers (27a). The court reached this conclusion despite:

- (a) "generally credited" testimony concerning the impact of the denial of information on IFFA's ability to understand the effects of the proposals or to present counterproposals less offensive to its members;
- (b) the fact that the information requests dealt with mandatory subjects of bargaining, including salaries, hours and working conditions; and
- (c) the obvious disparity between TWA's announced desire for savings of \$88 Million annually and those demands which (by Icahn's assessments) were worth \$110 Million.

Likewise, the court found that Icahn had in fact agreed with ALPA as to the level of concessions to be obtained from IFFA. Although noting that the ALPA-Icahn agreement was against public policy "in that it tended to create rigidity in TWA's bargaining stance [with IFFA]" (51a), the court nonetheless rejected the argument that this action established a breach of the bargaining obligation under § 2, First.

As to the other "*various claims of misconduct in bargaining* by TWA prior to the strike", the court concluded that they "*may . . . be generally accepted*" (28a, emphasis supplied). Again, however, the court determined that these facts did not demonstrate that TWA had failed to

exert "every reasonable effort" to reach agreement. The court felt there was no bad faith because, "[e]ven assuming there were numerous instances of bullying and occasional devious behavior by TWA bargainers and supporting staff, such misconduct would [only] have been directed toward tricking or coercing IFFA into making a bad bargain" (28a, emphasis supplied). Apparently it did not matter what TWA had done.

The court held it "cannot conclude from the evidence presented that TWA's bargaining was in bad faith . . ." (54a). Noting with approval *Seattle-First National Bank v. NLRB*, 638 F.2d 1221 (9th Cir. 1981), the court stated its belief that it was prohibited from "sitting in judgment upon the substantive terms of a proposed collective bargaining agreement" (55a). In spite of that stated belief, however, the court determined that "*the sole cause of the impasse was the wide divergence*" between TWA demands and IFFA concessionary offers (28a, emphasis supplied) and, that being the case, "the basic factual issues are whether TWA's ultimate demands have been shown to be beyond the range of reasonableness . . ." (29a)—an issue resolved by the court in TWA's favor (30a).

#### **The Court of Appeals Decision**

The Court of Appeals assumed that NLRA concepts may be applied to claims of relief for unfair labor practice strikers in RLA proceedings (5a). Beyond that, however, the Eighth Circuit did not specifically address the issues raised. Instead, despite the district court findings of fact, the Eighth Circuit affirmed, in a short *per curiam* opinion, stating that the district court's decision "rests on findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous" (5a).

#### **REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT**

IFFA files this petition not merely to correct error below, although the decision is clearly in error. IFFA files this petition not merely to correct manifest injustice, although manifest injustice has been done to 5,000 em-

ployees, predominantly female, who exercised their statutory right to strike in order to oppose the imposition of massive adverse changes maintained in bargaining through the course of conduct detailed herein and, indeed, found by the district court. Instead IFFA files this petition so that this Court may exercise its supervisory power over lower federal courts and pass upon questions, having wide impact under the employment laws of the United States regulating collective bargaining and prohibiting discrimination. The resolution of these questions will have immediate importance and impact upon unionized employees—female and male alike—in a deregulated airline industry, where airlines are targeted for corporate takeover and their employees targeted for recoupment of the debt incurred in the financing of those takeovers.

IFFA, as it did in the Court of Appeals, embraces the facts as found by the district court. Those facts, coupled with the conclusions reached by the courts below, stand for propositions wholly untenable and unprecedented under what has been, until now, a harmonious scheme of federal labor legislation. The decisions below establish, in the Eighth Circuit at least, that:

- (1) An employer, which *establishes adverse terms of employment on an individual basis*, at least *inter alia* on gender-related stereotyped considerations, may not escape a finding of violation without proof that it would have taken the same action in any event (*Price-Waterhouse, infra*)—while an airline employer, which establishes adverse employment terms *through RLA collective bargaining* and which asserts *at the time it decided to take such action* that it did so at least *inter alia* on the basis of gender-related stereotype, may nonetheless escape a finding of violation *without any proof* that it would have taken the same action in any event;
- (2) The obligations imposed upon an employer under § 2, First of the RLA requiring exertion of “every reasonable effort to make agreement” represents a *lesser burden* than that imposed by the

NLRA prohibition of refusal "to bargain collectively with the representatives of his [the employer's] employees."

**I. DOES A FACTUAL FINDING THAT THE CARRIER ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED A BARGAINING POSITION ADVERSE TO ITS FEMALE EMPLOYEES, FOR REASONS ASSERTEDLY INCLUDING THE PERCEPTION OF SUCH FEMALE EMPLOYEES AS "SECOND INCOMES", COMPEL A CONCLUSION THAT THE CARRIER VIOLATED § 2, FIRST OF THE RLA, UNLESS THE CARRIER PROVES THAT IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SAME ACTION IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH CONSIDERATION?**

**A. The Decisions Below Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In *Price-Waterhouse*.**

The elimination of employment discrimination based upon sex is central to this nation's employment policy as embodied in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Section 2000e-2(a) makes unlawful (1) discrimination "against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, because of such individual's . . . sex" and (2) limitation, segregation or classification of employees "in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's . . . sex".

Title VII's reflection of the all-important policy of eliminating employment discrimination does not exist in isolation. In unionized work environments, where employment terms are established *collectively* under the NLRA or the RLA, the elimination of and protection from employment discrimination, on grounds enumerated in Title VII, is no less a national priority. Section 2, First requires that an air carrier "exert every reasonable effort" to make agreement. The establishment of employment terms, out of gender-based stereotype or other discriminatory motivation, through a § 2, First collective bargaining process, is no less at odds with national policy than in an

individual, non-collective employment relationship. Certainly this is what the district court meant in saying that if the "breadwinner" reference reflected motivation, "IFFA would doubtless be right" (62a).<sup>14</sup> Yet, in a Title VII case, an employer shown to have based adverse employment action, at least *inter alia*, on invidious perceptions of gender stereotype has the burden to prove that it would have taken the same adverse action in any event. Under the holdings below, on the other hand, an air carrier operating under the obligations imposed by § 2, First and likewise shown to have based adverse action on invidious stereotype perception will have been immunized from any such burden.

At the time when Icahn announced that he would insist on more onerous and disproportionate concessions from Flight Attendants, he was directly asked why. Icahn explained that Flight Attendants were "*second incomes*" rather than "*breadwinners*"; he repeated like remarks until the time for self-help came. The district court specifically determined that *if Icahn's second income/breadwinner reference were "truly a basis of decision, IFFA would doubtless be right"* (*supra*, p. 8); but nonetheless dismissed Icahn's own, asserted reason as a "*diabolical alternative*" and "*mere rationalization*" (*supra*, p. 9), concluding instead that the "*real reasons*" for the disparate treatment "*must have been*" a male workforce's (IAM's) ability to inflict greater damage and a perception of its greater skill (*supra*, p. 9). The court went on to explain that this must be so because a contrary reason, *Icahn's own reason, would signify acceptance of the "Marxist or utopian distribution system" on the part of a 'hard-boiled corporate raider'*—something that would be entirely "*implausible*" (*supra*, p. 9).

Needless to say, the record is devoid of evidence that sex-biased discrimination signifies acceptance of Marxist

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<sup>14</sup> Denial of benefits to women because of their perceived status as *second incomes*, rather than *breadwinners*, is, of course, discrimination on the basis of sex. *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 411 U.S. 677 (1973).

principles, or that such acceptance is implausible on the part of a capitalist.

That Icahn *may* [and if put to proof, *might*], in addition to the "second income" perception, have taken into account factors based on skill and economic power should not lessen the direct admission that sex-biased considerations were a substantial motivating factor in the decision. As this Court noted in *Price-Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1775 (1989), a Title VII case:

— It is difficult for us to imagine that, in the simple words "because of," Congress meant to obligate a plaintiff to identify *the precise causal role played by legitimate and illegitimate motivations* in the employment decision she challenges. We conclude, instead, that Congress meant to obligate her *to prove that the employer relied upon sex-based considerations in coming to its decision*. (109 S.Ct. at 1786, emphasis supplied.)

Assuming, *arguendo*, that the action taken may have been "the product of a mixture of legitimate and illegitimate motives", "it simply makes no sense to ask whether the legitimate reason was 'the' 'true reason' for the decision". (*Id.* at 1788). Upon a showing that gender played a motivating part in the decision, the employer—

... may avoid a finding of liability *only* by proving that it would have made the same decision even if it had not allowed gender to play such a role. This balance of burden is the direct result of Title VII's balance of rights. (*Id.* at 1787-88, emphasis supplied.)

As this Court made clear:

In saying that gender played a motivating part in an employment decision, we mean that, *if we asked the employer at the moment of the decision what its reasons were and if we received a truthful response, one of those reasons would be that the applicant or employee was a woman*. In the specific context of sex stereotyping, an employer who acts on the basis of a belief that a woman cannot be aggressive, or that

she must not be, has acted on the basis of gender. (*Id.* at 1790-91, emphasis supplied.)

*This employer was asked, at the moment of decision, what its reasons were; the employer responded that women were not breadwinners, but were second incomes. In such circumstances this Court determined, in *Price-Waterhouse*, that while plaintiff retains the burden of persuasion on the issue of whether gender played a part in the employment decision, "the employer's burden is most appropriately deemed an affirmative defense: the plaintiff must persuade the fact finder on one point, and then the employer, if it wishes to prevail, must persuade it on another"* <sup>15</sup> (*Id.* at 1788.)

The decisions below cannot be harmonized with *Price-Waterhouse*.<sup>16</sup> Section 2, First requires that a carrier "*exert every reasonable effort*" to reach agreement. It is inconceivable that establishing, maintaining and implementing adverse employment terms out of the invidious and unlawful perception of women as "second incomes" is consistent with this duty. Certainly an admission by the decision-maker that he was acting (at least in part) on the basis of such an invidious perception is *prima facie* proof that the carrier did *not* "*exert every reasonable effort*" to reach agreement. Surely under such circumstances the employer, as it would in a Title VII case, should shoulder the burden of proving that its efforts were "reasonable" despite the admitted discriminatory *animus*, and that its actions would have been the same in the absence of a discriminatory attitude and motivation.

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<sup>15</sup> Citing *NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.*, 462 U.S. 393, 400 (1983).

<sup>16</sup> This case was argued before the Court of Appeals on April 12, 1989; this Court's decision in *Price-Waterhouse* was issued on May 1, 1989. We did, however, bring *Price-Waterhouse* to the attention of the Eighth Circuit Panel, by letter dated May 18, 1989 and prior to the Panel decision on June 28, 1989. Moreover, *Price-Waterhouse* was the principal focus of our Petition for Rehearing, which apparently garnered some (but not enough) votes.

Indeed, if anything, the words "exert every reasonable effort" in § 2, First are even more demanding than the words "because of" which are used in Title VII. Under the RLA, the focus is not on causation but rather on the duty which both the carrier and union bear. The issue is not so much what caused what, as it is whether TWA could possibly have exerted *every* reasonable *effort* when its principal owner said he was acting for sexually discriminatory reasons. Accordingly, if anything, the employer should be held to a *more stringent* burden under the RLA, not a lesser one.

This case, like *Price-Waterhouse*, involves "smoking gun" rather than indirect or circumstantial evidence. If anything, the situation here is even more compelling. The evidence consists of statements directly attributed to the decision-maker himself, Carl Icahn. In *Price-Waterhouse* the evidence was based upon statements made by partners *favorable to plaintiff's cause*. To be consistent with *Price-Waterhouse*, TWA should have had imposed upon it the burden, by way of affirmative defense, to prove that it would have made the same decision and taken the same action even in the absence of the clearly asserted, unlawful gender-based stereotype as to second incomes.

Accordingly, the RLA should require the employer to meet a standard at least as high as that in Title VII, and the facts showing unlawful motivation here are stronger than those which produced the *Price-Waterhouse* ruling. Under these circumstances it makes no sense to say that an employer—shown to have been acting at least in part due to a discriminatory *animus*—should be held to one standard under Title VII and a much different (and lesser) one under the RLA. This Court should therefore grant this Petition in order to harmonize the law under these two important federal labor statutes.

Moreover, the decisions below establish a principle that turns on its ear this Court's decision in *McDonnell-Douglas v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792 (1973). *McDonnell-Douglas* establishes that in a *pretext* case, (a) a federal court may *look beyond* spoken or *asserted lawful* motivation to (b)

determine the existence of *unasserted unlawful* motivation. In this case, on the other hand, the courts have established that in a *direct evidence* case, (a) federal courts may *look beyond* spoken or *asserted unlawful* motivation in order to (b) find the existence of *unasserted, lawful* motivation—and indeed even in the absence of proof.

#### B. The Decisions Below Upset The Harmony Between Title VII And The Federal Labor Laws.

The establishment of less beneficial or more onerous working conditions and benefits for women, because of the perception of their status as "second incomes" rather than "breadwinners" is discrimination on the basis of sex. *Frontiero v. Richardson*, *supra*. Federal labor policy prohibits this discrimination. 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, *et seq.* "Title VII was designed to supplement, rather than supplant, existing laws . . . relating to employment discrimination." *Alexander v. Gardner-Denver Co.*, 415 U.S. 36 at 48-49 (1974). The various statutes comprising federal labor policy need be interpreted, not in isolation, but in harmony. *Textile Workers v. Lincoln Mills*, 353 U.S. 448 (1957).

TWA's imposition of adverse employment terms for reasons explained as a "second income" perception, though clearly contrary to the national labor policy eradicating sex discrimination as expressed in Title VII, arose in the context of collective bargaining under § 2, First of the RLA. Quite clearly, had TWA's actions been taken in an individual context with one unrepresented employee, prohibited sex discrimination would have been shown; and the court would have placed, upon TWA, the burden to prove that such adverse action would have been taken in any event. *Price-Waterhouse*, *supra*. The decisions of the court below, however, stand for the proposition that no such burden exists in a like case arising in a collective bargaining context and brought under § 2, First.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> As the district court noted—citing *United Packinghouse Union v. NLRB*, 416 F.2d 1126, 1133 and n.11 (D.C. Cir.), cert. den.,

Congress<sup>18</sup> and this Court have consistently recognized, in the development of the remedial scheme of Title VII, the unique status of collective bargaining as being at the core of our national labor policy. *TWA v. Hardison*, 432 U.S. 63, 78-79 (1977). This Court has consistently recognized the primary role of the collective bargaining representative in decisions involving the interaction between Title VII and federal labor laws. *Emporium Capwell Co. v. Western Addition Community Organization*, 420 U.S. 50 (1975); *Teamsters v. United States, infra* n.18; *United Air Lines v. Evans*, 431 U.S. 553 (1977); and *TWA v. Hardison, supra*. The district court decision, as affirmed by the Court of Appeals, ignores the primary role of collective bargaining and subjugates rights of collectively-represented employees to those whose tenure and terms are established on an individual basis. Collectively-represented employees, as a result of the decisions below, have lesser protection against invidious sex-motivated employment conditions; at the same time air carriers, using § 2, First as a sword rather than a shield, enjoy a lesser burden of proof (indeed a non-existent burden) in immunizing themselves from a finding of employment discrimination.

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396 U.S. 903 (1969)—exclusive primary jurisdiction of IFFA's claim does not lie with the EEOC (60a). Indeed, IFFA's claim that TWA violated the bargaining obligation by insisting on employment terms illegal under Title VII—and seeking a declaration that TWA's bargaining conduct caused or prompted the strike, entitling striking Flight Attendants not only to reinstatement and backpay, but restoration of the terms and conditions of employment as they existed prior to the strike and TWA's implementation of adversely changed terms—can be resolved *only* under § 2, First. Simply put, a district judge sitting in a Title VII action filed by individuals is not going to reform unilateral changes in employment terms that were made pursuant to the RLA bargaining process.

<sup>18</sup> See discussion of Congressional record in *Teamsters v. United States*, 431 U.S. 324, 350-352 (1977); and *Franks v. Bowman Transportation Co., Inc.*, 424 U.S. 747, 759-762 (1976).

**II. DO FACTUAL FINDINGS—THAT A CARRIER (TWA) UNDER THE RLA ENGAGED IN MISCONDUCT, IDENTICAL TO THAT HELD UNDER THE NLRA TO BE BAD FAITH BARGAINING—COMPEL THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CARRIER'S MISCONDUCT BREACHED § 2, FIRST, CAUSED THE IMPASSE AND PROMPTED THE STRIKE, IN THE ABSENCE OF PROOF INTRODUCED BY THE CARRIER TO THE CONTRARY?**

As the district court noted, this is a case of first impression (37a). By ruling that § 2, First *forbids surface bargaining and little else* (41a) the district court made an unprecedented determination, with far-reaching consequences, that the RLA imposes a lesser bargaining obligation than that required by the NLRA.

**A. The Lower Courts' Holdings, That The RLA Forbids "Surface Bargaining" And "Little Else", Construes § 2, First As Imposing A Lesser Bargaining Obligation Than The NLRA: This Holding Misapplies The Statute And Presents A Conflict With The Second Circuit.**

The NLRA and the RLA reflect consistent national policies as expressed by Congress in similar legislative language. Compare the NLRA, 29 U.S.C. § 151 and LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 141(b) with RLA, 45 U.S.C. § 151(a). Like the NLRA, the RLA was enacted to encourage collective bargaining and to prevent costly strikes. *Detroit & Toledo Shoreline R.R. v. United Transportation Union*, 396 U.S. 142, 148 (1969). Agreements under the RLA are the "product of years of struggle and negotiation"; any power to change or revise them must be clearly confined and supervised. *BRAC v. Florida East Coast Railway Co.*, 384 U.S. 238, 246 (1966).

Thus, one of the statute's primary commands, judicially enforceable, is found in the repeated declaration of a duty upon all parties to a dispute to negotiated for its settlement. This duty is not merely perfunctory. Good faith exhaustion of the possibility of agreement is required to fulfill it. (*Elgin, Joliet*

& Eastern R.R. v. Burley, 325 U.S. 711, 721, n.12 (1945), emphasis supplied).

The § 2, First obligation is "the heart of the Railway Labor Act." *Railroad Trainmen v. Jacksonville Terminal Co.*, 394 U.S. 369, 378 (1969). Strictest formal compliance is meaningless if one party goes through the motions with a desire not to reach agreement. *Chi. & N.W. Ry. Co. v. UTU*, 402 U.S. 570, 578-579 (1971). The duty imposed by § 2, First is judicially enforceable. *Elgin, supra*; *Chi. & N.W. Ry. Co., supra*.

The statutory language of § 2, First, imposing the obligation "to exert every reasonable effort" to reach agreement, is expressed in far more forceful language than that adopted by Congress in enacting 29 U.S.C. § 158 (a) (5), which merely prohibits an employer from refusing "to bargain collectively with the representatives of his employees." Collective bargaining and prevention of strikes in a national airline or rail system have never been held to be of lesser national interest than in industries regulated by the NLRA. No court has, until now, held that § 2, First imposes a lesser obligation than that imposed by the NLRA. In this case however, after lengthy consideration (36-41a), the district court concluded, "It is clear from C & NW that the RLA is to be construed as forbidding 'surface bargaining' and little, if anything, further" (41a). On the contrary this Court's decision in *Chi. & N.W. Ry. Co., supra* (including n.11 thereof, given special emphasis by the district court at 36-37a) provides no support for the court's determination. Indeed, this Court stated:

While we have no occasion to determine whether § 2, First requires more of the parties than avoidance of "bad faith" as defined by Judge Magruder in *Reed & Prince, supra*, we note two caveats . . . [S]econd, great circumspection should be used in going beyond cases involving "desire not to reach an agreement" . . . See n.19, *infra*. (*Chi. & N.W. Ry. Co. v. UTU*, at 579, emphasis supplied).

Note 19, in turn, refers to § 8(d), 29 U.S.C. § 158(d) of the NLRA [prohibition against compelling agreement to a proposal or the making of a concession]—absent from the RLA<sup>19</sup>—and § 8(d)'s reflection of concern that the NLRB had intruded too deeply into collective bargaining under the guise of enforcement of the duty to bargain in good faith. *Id.* at 583.

Both before and after *Chi. & N.W. Ry. Co.*, the Second Circuit has interpreted § 2, First as imposing a greater duty to endeavor to reach agreement than that required by the NLRA. *Chi., R.I. & P. R.R. v. Switchmen's Union*, 292 F.2d 61, 70 (2d Cir. 1961), cert. den., 370 U.S. 936 (1962); *Japan Airlines v. IAM*, 538 F.2d 46 (1976), aff'g 389 F. Supp. 27 (1975). In this case, the courts below did not read § 2, First as imposing a greater or even an equal burden; they interpreted it as imposing a lesser standard of bargaining, subject to lesser scrutiny. The NLRA has consistently been construed as prohibiting at least two types of misconduct: (1) *per se* violations—refusals to bargain *in fact* which, considered alone and irrespective of other bargaining conduct are inherently destructive of the bargaining process; and (2) “surface bargaining” requiring an analysis of various conduct or actions which, though not considered unlawful in and of themselves and on an individual basis, demonstrate a state of mind evidencing lack of good faith in bargaining, when considered together.<sup>20</sup> The decisions below failed to recognize the inherently destructive effect on the bargaining process and IFFA's ability to reach agreement arising from conduct consistently held by This and

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<sup>19</sup> Whether 8(d) can be imported wholesale into the RLA is debatable, but immaterial. IFFA does not base its claimed § 2, First violation on TWA's failure to either agree to a proposal or to make a concession. Its absence from the RLA, however, reinforces the already clear determination that the RLA does not impose a lesser standard of bargaining than the NLRA.

<sup>20</sup> See, e.g., Cox, *The Duty to Bargain in Good Faith*, 71 Harv. L.Rev. 1401, 1418-26 (1958).

other courts as *per se* violations of the duty to bargain under the NLRA. Moreover, they:

- (1) relegated § 2, First to an impermissibly low standard of bargaining;
- (2) reflected an erroneous view of the law upon which critical and erroneous findings (that TWA did not engage in bad faith, that the impasse was caused by the divergence of position, and that TWA did not cause the strike) were based; and
- (3) formed the underpinnings for the court's failure to require proof by TWA that its misconduct (found by the court) did not cause the impasse and the strike.

**B. The Decisions Below On The Issue Of Denial Of Requested Information Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In *Truitt* And With Decisions Of Virtually Every Circuit, Including The Eighth Circuit; On The Issue Of Dealing With Other Than The Exclusive Representative, They Are In Conflict With This Court's Decision In *Virginia Railway*.**

The district court ruling that § 2, First *forbids surface bargaining and little else* (41a) constitutes a clear legal conclusion, unprecedented, that there is no such thing as a *per se* violation of § 2, First.

**1. TWA's Refusal To Provide Information.**

The failure of the courts below to conclude that *the numerous instances of "unjustified" refusal to provide requested information* constituted a violation of TWA's bargaining obligation—a refusal *in fact* to exert every reasonable effort—is contrary to decisions of this Court and those of virtually every circuit having occasion to pass upon the issue. Over 30 years ago, this Court stated, in *NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.*, 351 U.S. 149, 152-53 (1956):

Good-faith bargaining necessarily requires that claims made by either bargainer should be honest claims . . . [i]f such an argument is important enough

to present in the give and take of bargaining, it is important enough to require some sort of proof of its accuracy.

*Truitt* itself has been said to have established the denial of information as a *per se* violation, as noted in Justice Frankfurter's separate opinion, at 157. This Court has since said, "There can be no question of the general obligation of an employer to provide information that is needed by the bargaining representative for the proper performance of its duties." *NLRB v. Acme Industrial*, 385 U.S. 432, 435-36 (1966) (citing *Truitt*).

Various circuit courts have likewise held a refusal to provide relevant information a *per se* violation, or have otherwise defined such a refusal to be a violation, of the NLRA. "Once relevance is determined, an employer's refusal to honor a request is a *per se* violation of the Act." *Curtiss-Wright v. NLRB*, 347 F.2d 61, 67 (3rd Cir. 1965). See also *Boston Herald-Traveller v. NLRB*, 223 F.2d 58 (1st Cir. 1955); *NLRB v. Yawman and Erbe*, 187 F.2d 947, 949 (2nd Cir. 1951); *NLRB v. Whitin Machine*, 217 F.2d 593, 594 (4th Cir. 1954), cert. den. 349 U.S. 905 (1955); *General Electric Co. v. NLRB*, 466 F.2d 1177 (6th Cir. 1972); and *Newspaper Guild v. NLRB*, 548 F.2d 863 (9th Cir. 1977).

Even the Eighth Circuit has previously held that refusal to provide information is a *per se* violation of the statutory duty to bargain. "Once relevance is established, a refusal to furnish the requested information is *per se* a violation of the Act." *Proctor & Gamble Mfg. Co. v. NLRB*, 603 F.2d 1310, 1315 (8th Cir. 1979).

Relating as it did to TWA's demands for changes in wages, hours and working conditions, the information sought by IFFA was indeed relevant. The district court, in concluding TWA's refusal to be "unjustified", apparently so found. The court refused to find TWA's refusal a violation of its statutory duty not because the information sought was irrelevant, but because it would not have helped in shaping an agreement (25a).

Universally established, in the Eighth Circuit and virtually all other circuits, is the principle that information pertaining to wages, hours and conditions of employment is *presumptively relevant*. *Proctor & Gamble, supra*, at 1315; *Curtiss-Wright, supra*, at 69; *NLRB v. Whitin Machine, supra*, at 594; and *Newspaper Guild, supra*, at 867. The standard for relevance is a "liberal, discovery-type standard." *NLRB v. Acme Industrial Co., supra*, 385 U.S. at 437.

IFFA's denied requests for information *dealt with* the issues in bargaining. They dealt with TWA's own demanded changes. Those demands—for salary cuts and work rule changes resulting in reduced headcount (job loss)<sup>21</sup>—were said by TWA's chief negotiator to represent desired savings of \$88 Million annually. But Icahn had valued the demands at \$110 Million annually (21a). The demands rendered the requested information as absolutely essential. Without it, IFFA was denied the opportunity to understand the impact of the demands; the opportunity to ferret out \$22 Million in "fluff" (\$110 Million in savings as opposed to a desired objective of \$88 Million; the opportunity to bargain away those demands having little dollar or job-loss impact, but viewed adverse to IFFA's membership; the opportunity to meet TWA's stated goal of \$88 Million without agreeing to all demands; the opportunity to agree to some but not all of TWA's demands; the opportunity, in fact, to bargain.

Providing information is bargaining; its refusal is a refusal to bargain in fact. The furnishing of requested information relevant to the issues presented in bargaining

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<sup>21</sup> Prior to TWA's implementation of changed work rules, the Flight Attendant workforce numbered approximately 6,000. Though not recited by the district court, but based upon unrefuted trial testimony, Icahn told IFFA that with the new work rules, TWA could operate with 3500 Flight Attendants. The "basic financial estimates" supplied by TWA to IFFA revealed reduction in headcount (lost jobs) resulting from its proposals. IFFA's requests were designed to reveal how many jobs could be lost from each of TWA's demands and each of their sub-proposals.

is essential to make the mandated bargaining process work—or to give it a chance to work by enabling the union to understand the proposals, as well as their *effects* upon represented employees.

In this case TWA's refusal to provide relevant information was held not violative of § 2, First, because the information *would not have yielded agreement* (27a, 50a). Until now, no court has so held! Until now, no court has determined that "good faith" bargaining and "every reasonable effort" will not work, *if given the chance*. Worse yet the decisions below allow such a result *without employer proof!* "In those cases [where presumptively relevant information has been denied], the employer has the burden to prove a lack of relevance" or otherwise justify its action. *Newspaper Guild, supra* at 867.

The courts' misapprehension of these judicial principles led them to conclude that TWA had not breached its § 2, First obligation and did not cause the strike. The district court reasoned, "[t]he potential [of undisclosed information] for shaping an agreement between the parties has not been demonstrated . . . , except in the abstract" (25a); "[n]o information sought . . . could likely result in . . . accepting the work rules concessions that would have filled the chasm . . ." (27a); and, therefore the court reached the "confident conclusion that information concealment (and claimed misinformation) did not cause or prolong the strike . . ." (50a).

The decisions below impermissibly put the courts into the bargaining process, thereby alleviating TWA's required burden of proof. As this Court has noted:

It is contended that when an employer can effect cost savings . . . there is no need to . . . provide . . . an opportunity to negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative. . . . The short answer is that . . . national labor policy is founded upon the congressional determination that the chances are good enough to warrant subjecting such issues to the process of collective negotiation. *Fibreboard Paper Products v. NLRB*, 379 U.S. 203, 214 (1964).

National labor policy is founded on the assumption that the bargaining process *can* work if allowed to do so. Good faith exhaustion of the possibility of agreement is required by § 2, First. *Elgin, supra*, 325 U.S. 721, n. 12. The decisions below establish, for the first time: (1) the assumption that, even if allowed to work, the collective bargaining process will not work; and (2) that the union has the burden to prove the information, if provided, would have yielded an agreement.

## 2. TWA's Dealings With Other Than IFFA.

Read together, the decisions below establish a legal principle, at least in the Eighth Circuit, contrary to this Court's decision in *Virginia Railway v. System Fed. No. 40*, 300 U.S. 515 (1937). Therein, this Court noted that § 2, First, aided by the amendment of the RLA adding § 2, Ninth (300 U.S. at 544), "imposes the affirmative duty to treat with only the true representative, *and hence the negative duty to treat with no other*". (*Id.* at 548, emphasis supplied.) The decision of the district court, as affirmed, that Icahn's written agreement with ALPA to use "best efforts to achieve . . . savings . . . [of] 20% to 22%" from IFFA (17a) did not breach its RLA obligation is a clear departure from *Virginia Railway*. The lower court's conclusion was reached *despite* its finding that the ALPA-Icahn agreement was arguably against public policy by creating rigidity in TWA's bargaining stance [with IFFA] (51a). This rigidity, created by agreement with others, is precisely what is condemned by the RLA. Icahn committed to ALPA his best efforts to extract from IFFA terms established in the ALPA-Icahn agreement. TWA could hardly be said to have exerted "every reasonable effort to reach agreement" with IFFA.

C. The Decisions Below Are Inconsistent With This Court's Decision In *NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.* The Courts Below Failed To Impose Upon TWA A Burden To Prove That, Despite Its Proven Misconduct, It Did Not Breach § 2, First, An Impasse Would Have Been Reached And A Strike Would Have Occurred.

The courts' failure to require TWA, *by way of affirmative defense*, to prove that it would have taken its same action in the absence of reasons unlawful under Title VII has been sufficiently addressed. In addition, however, the courts below failed to impose upon TWA a like burden in connection with all the other numerous incidents of misconduct found by the district court. The decisions below, in the face of the court's own findings of such misconduct and TWA's failure to prove otherwise, represent an unprecedented departure from "burden of proof" principles previously enunciated by this Court.

IFFA maintains that: the § 2, First requirement of "every reasonable effort" is indeed higher than an obligation to "bargain collectively" or "bargain in good faith"; the many instances of misconduct found by the district court are, in and of themselves, definitionally inconsistent with "every reasonable effort"; a violation of § 2, First has therefore been established; and TWA has the burden, by way of affirmative defense, to prove otherwise. At the very least, however, "every reasonable effort" is a question of intent, *animus*, or state of mind—as is "bargaining collectively" or "bargaining in good faith" under the NLRA. Even under this interpretation of "every reasonable effort" as required by § 2, First, the lower court decisions impermissibly immunize TWA from its required burden of proof. In *NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.*, *supra*, this Court held that where "a discharge or other adverse action" (462 U.S. at 401, emphasis supplied) has been shown to have been based in whole or in part on anti-union *animus*, the employer bears the burden, by way of affirmative defense, to show that it would have acted in the same manner for wholly legitimate rea-

sons. Citing with approval the NLRB's decision in *Wright Line*, 251 NLRB 1083 (1980), *enf'd*, 662 F.2d 899 (1st Cir. 1981), *cert. den.*, 455 U.S. 989 (1982):

It thus became clear, if it was not clear before, that proof that the discharge would have occurred in any event and for valid reasons amounted to an affirmative defense on which the employer carried the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence (462 U.S. at 400, emphasis supplied).

The failure to require TWA proof that its misconduct did not cause impasse<sup>22</sup> and did not prompt the strike formed the impermissible underpinnings for numerous principles never before enunciated: *e.g.*, bargaining misconduct, bullying and devious behavior do not breach the bargaining obligation because it is designed only toward tricking or coercing the union into a bad bargain (28a); and relevant information need not be provided in the absence of proof by the union that it would have yielded an agreement (25a, 27a and 50a). Worse yet, assuming § 2, First prohibits *only surface bargaining*, the failure to require TWA proof has resulted in a *first-time departure* from universal precedent as to proof in a *surface bargaining* case. It has long been accepted that, in contrast with a *per se* case, surface bargaining requires consideration of the totality of conduct in assessing the question of requisite intent. See *NLRB v. Billion Oldsmobile-Toyota*, 700 F.2d 454 (8th Cir. 1983); *NLRB v. Montgomery Ward*, 133 F.2d 676, 687 (9th Cir. 1943); *NLRB v. Herman Sausage*, 275 F.2d 229 (5th Cir. 1960). Surface bargaining cannot be resolved on consideration of a *single* factor. This is why analysis of the employer's *proposals themselves* cannot be considered as *indicia* of bad faith in the absence of other factors and circumstances evidencing bad faith. *E.g.*, *Queen Mary Restaurants v. NLRB*, 560 F.2d 403, 411 (9th Cir. 1977); *Wal-Lite Div. of U.S.*

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<sup>22</sup> As to the issue of strike causation, no lawful impasse can be said to occur when the deadlock is caused, as obviously the case herein, by one party's bad faith bargaining. *United Packinghouse Union v. NLRB*, *supra* at 1131.

*Gypsum v. NLRB*, 484 F.2d 108, 111 (8th Cir. 1973). Judicial authority on *surface bargaining* has been turned inside out by the single-issue resolution of what is a multi-issue "totality of conduct" case.

Until now, no court has *rejected* a surface bargaining claim, in the face of numerous findings of bargaining misconduct, on the basis of its analysis of the employer's proposals *themselves*. Ignoring its numerous findings of TWA's misconduct, the district court determined "the sole cause of the impasse" to be the wide divergence in positions (28a); it therefore defined as "the basic factual issues . . . whether TWA's ultimate demands have [exceeded] reasonableness" (29a). It effectively disposed of the case by resolving that issue in TWA's favor (30a). If let stand, this case represents a radical departure from consistently applied judicial authority not only on the nature of proof, but the very definition, of surface bargaining.

#### CONCLUSION

The question is whether bad faith bargaining exists under the RLA. If it does, it exists in *this* case. The writ of *certiorari* should be granted to review the decision of the Eighth Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **APPENDICES**

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**APPENDIX A**

**Opinion and Judgment of the  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit**

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**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

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No. 88-1984

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THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,  
an unincorporated labor organization; VALERIE COL-  
LINS-COODY, MARGARET A. HARTZ, CUKY P. HARVEY,  
BRUCE KENNETH PALMER, BEONCA ES LANDA RIST,  
NANCY WRIGHT, individually and as a class; ELIZA-  
BETH RICH-LOUKLELIS, individually and as a class;  
and MICHAEL ALEX McDERMOTT, individually and as a  
class,

*Appellants,*

v.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.; and THE TWA GROUP  
BENEFITS PLAN for FLIGHT ATTENDANTS; CONNECTI-  
CUT GENERAL LIFE INS. CO.; TOTAL HEALTH CARE:  
N.J. STAFFORD, WILMA RIGHTER, CRAIG MUDGE,

*Appellees.*

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Western District of Missouri

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Submitted: April 12, 1989

Filed: June 28, 1989

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Before FAGG, Circuit Judge, FLOYD R. GIBSON, and  
TIMBERS,\* Senior Circuit Judges.

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PER CURIAM.

The Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) brought this class action on behalf of its members against Trans World Airlines, Inc. (TWA) seeking, among other things, reinstatement, backpay, and other benefits for former strikers. After lengthy proceedings on this aspect of IFFA's complaint, the district court issued a comprehensive decision granting TWA's motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) to dismiss this claim at the close of IFFA's evidence. *See Independent Fed'n of Flight Attendants v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.*, 682 F. Supp. 1003, 1006 (W.D. Mo. 1988). IFFA appeals, and we affirm.

Since 1978, IFFA has been the collective bargaining representative for approximately 6000 TWA flight attendants. Renegotiation of the parties' collective bargaining agreement began in 1981 and eventually proceeded under supervision by the National Mediation Board (NMB). The NMB released the parties from formal bargaining in February 1986. IFFA filed this action seeking an injunction under the Railway Labor Act (RLA), 45 U.S.C. §§ 151-188 (1982), to prevent TWA from implementing its proposed wage and work rule changes. Continued negotiations eventually failed, and the flight attendants went on strike. TWA operated in the interim with replacement workers. Two months later, IFFA offered to return to work, unconditionally accepting TWA's proposals. TWA reinstated some, but not all, of the former strikers.

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\* The HONORABLE WILLIAM H. TIMBERS, Senior United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting by designation.

Legal questions in this case have twice before reached our court and the United States Supreme Court. See *Independent Fed'n of Flight Attendants v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.*, 819 F.2d 839 (8th Cir. 1987), *rev'd*, 109 S. Ct. 1225 (1989) (Court reviewing only effect of seniority on striker reinstatement); *Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Independent Fed'n of Flight Attendants*, 809 F.2d 483 (8th Cir. 1987) (effect of strike on union security clause), *aff'd by an equally divided Court*, 108 S. Ct. 1101 (1988) (per curiam). The present appeal comes to us following thirty-one days of trial in which IFFA presented its evidence.

In broad terms, IFFA's theory in the district court was that TWA bargained in bad faith. IFFA claimed TWA consequently failed to carry out its obligation under the Railway Labor Act "to exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions, and to settle all disputes," 45 U.S.C. § 152 First. See *Chicago & N.W. Ry. v. United Transp. Union*, 402 U.S. 570, 577, 581 (1971). IFFA made a number of specific allegations of TWA's bad-faith bargaining, including: failing to provide requested information concerning bargaining proposals; dealing with a union other than the flight attendants' authorized bargaining representative; making impermissible agreements with flight attendant trainees before the strike; bargaining to impasse on a nonmandatory subject of bargaining; adopting a negotiating posture that showed bad faith, intent not to reach agreement, and sexual discrimination; and maintaining that negotiating posture in a manner that prolonged the strike.

IFFA further asserted that because TWA's prohibited conduct caused and ultimately prolonged the strike, IFFA members were unfair labor practice—rather than economic—strikers. See *Mastro Plastics Corp. v. NLRB*, 350 U.S. 270 (1956). On this basis, IFFA contended the flight attendants were entitled to relief analogous to that

available for unfair labor practice strikers under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. §§ 141-188 (1982). TWA defended its negotiating conduct and, in addition, argued that NLRA concepts relating to unfair labor practice strikes did not provide a source of relief under the RLA.

After "attentively listen[ing] to the evidence and oral arguments \* \* \* comprising some 7,000 pages of transcript and \* \* \* immers[ing] itself in documents and designations from depositions not read into evidence," *Independent Fed'n of Flight Attendants*, 682 F. Supp. at 1006, the district court rejected all of IFFA's contentions. In doing so, the court assumed without deciding that NLRA principles concerning unfair labor practice strikes applied to IFFA's claim. *See id.* at 1022.

The district court's decision contains several key determinations. First, the court held the disparity between the parties' bargaining positions, and not missing or misstated information, was the real barrier to agreement and the sole cause of the strike. *See id.* at 1013-16, 1024-25. In addition, the court ruled that economic considerations, rather than sexual discrimination, were the cause of the bargaining positions TWA took. *See id.* at 1010-11, 1029-32. The court also held TWA did not engage in sham or surface bargaining. *See id.* at 1016, 1029. Finally, the district court determined TWA's general bargaining tactics were not in bad faith, *see id.* at 1025-27, and that its poststrike conduct did not prolong the strike, *id.* at 1017. Based on these determinations, the district court granted TWA's rule 41(b) motion to dismiss and denied IFFA's claim for general reinstatement. *Id.* at 1006.

IFFA's arguments on appeal essentially express its dissatisfaction with the district court's decision to evaluate the evidence in a manner that does not coincide with its own. In considering a rule 41(b) motion in a bench

trial, however, the district court is entitled "to assess the credibility of witnesses and the evidence and to determine that the plaintiff has not made out a case." *Continental Casualty Co. v. DLH Servs., Inc.*, 752 F.2d 353, 356 (8th Cir. 1985). On review of a decision to grant the motion, we "may not try the case de novo or pass on the credibility of witnesses, but may only reverse the trial court's findings of fact if they are clearly erroneous." *Id.* (italics omitted).

Initially, we decline in this case to express a definitive view of TWA's contention that NLRA principles of relief for unfair labor practice strikers are not available in RLA proceedings. Like the district court, we instead assume for purposes of reviewing this case that NLRA concepts may be applied in these circumstances. On that basis, we have carefully reviewed IFFA's contentions in light of the district court's thorough decision, the record, and the parties' arguments. Having done so, we conclude the district court's decision rests on findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous, and no reversible error otherwise appears.

Thus, we affirm the district court's decision granting TWA's rule 41(b) motion. We also deny TWA's motion to strike portions of the appendix IFFA filed in connection with this appeal.

A true copy.

Attest:

Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

## APPENDIX B

**Order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
Eighth Circuit Denying Petition for Rehearing  
and Suggestions for Rehearing *En Banc***

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**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

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No. 88-1984-WM

THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS  
an Unincorporated Labor Organization, *et al.*,  
*Appellants,*

vs.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC., *et al.*,  
*Appellees.*

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**ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR REHEARING  
AND SUGGESTION FOR REHEARING EN BANC**

Appellant, Independent Federation of Flight Attendants' suggestion for rehearing en banc has been considered by the court and is denied by reason of the lack of a majority of the active judges voting to rehear the case en banc.

Petition for rehearing by the panel is also denied.

August 16, 1989

Order Entered at the Direction of the Court:

/s/ Robert D. St. Vrain

Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

## APPENDIX C

### Revised Opinion and Judgment of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
ST. JOSEPH DIVISION

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No. 86-6030-CV-SJ-6

THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,  
an Unincorporated Labor Organization,  
*Plaintiff,*

v.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC., *et al.*,  
*Defendants.*

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### REVISED OPINION\*

[Filed Mar. 9, 1988]

This lawsuit was filed two years ago by the union representing some 6,000 flight attendants (IFFA) then employed by the defendant airline (TWA). It sought an injunction under the status quo provisions of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. § 152, Seventh) against implementation by TWA of proposed wage reductions and adverse changes in work rules. TWA was presumptively author-

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\* This opinion supersedes the memorandum filed March 3, 1988, and contains minor revisions and corrections. The prior order denying general reinstatement of full-term strikers remains in effect, for purposes of determining appeal time.

ized to implement the changes, however, after March 6, 1986, the end of a cooling-off period scheduled by the National Mediation Board at the conclusion of contract negotiations. 45 U.S.C. § 155, First.

The court denied a temporary restraining order after hearing presentations from counsel for the parties, and urged the parties to attempt to resolve their differences on the remaining day before the parties were planning self-help. Such last minute settlements are not uncommon; in this instance, however, there were apparently unbridgeable differences between the parties, particularly regarding work rules governing the lifestyle of flight attendants. Further attempts to negotiate an agreement failed, and implementation by TWA, accompanied by a flight attendants' strike, occurred on March 7, 1986. After a brief reduction in service, TWA was able to maintain full operations by hiring an adequate number of substitute flight attendants as permanent replacements and by using crossover flight attendants. IFFA offered unconditionally in mid-May to return to work under the new conditions imposed by TWA. Fewer than 200 of the full-term strikers were accepted back by TWA. Practically all of the pre-strike work force was displaced.<sup>1</sup> Wages have been reduced by 22% (some \$44 million), and the total saving achieved by TWA may be roughly estimated at \$100 million annually.

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<sup>1</sup> TWA advises, however, that some 743 full-term strikers were rehired from April-July 1987. This court has, moreover, ordered TWA to reinstate some 463 full-term strikers, whose places were filled by employees still in training school at the end of the strike. The Court of Appeals has directed reinstatement of perhaps double that number of full-term strikers having seniority over "junior crossovers." Persons interested in a full review of the background of this case and related litigation should examine *TWA v. IAM*, 629 F.Supp. 1554 (W. D. Mo. 1986); *TWA v. IFFA*, 640 F.Supp. 1108 (W. D. Mo. 1986), *affirmed* 809 F.2d 483, *cert. granted* 107 S.Ct. 3183, *affirmed* by equally divided vote, March 2, 1988; and *IFFA v. TWA*, 643 F.Supp. 470 (W. D. Mo. 1986), *affirmed in part, reversed in part*, 819 F.2d 839, *cert. pending*.

The present case has been tried sporadically, as soon as the parties were ready, from November 1986 to March 1987, on Count I of the Third Amended Complaint, filed in mid-July 1986. Briefing and argument on TWA's motion to dismiss at the end of plaintiff's proof extended into September 1987. Although Count I contains some allegations serving a dual purpose, and seeks some relief beyond a general reinstatement of full-term strikers, the main thrust of the Count and of the trial deals with a contention that the strikers were "unfair labor practice strikers" who are entitled to return to their jobs after the strike, displacing all replacements, and enjoying back pay entitlement (at a rate that might be estimated at perhaps \$2 million per week) from the offer to return in May 1986, by analogy to rules established under the National Labor Relations Act. Bad faith in bargaining is the general allegation.

At the conclusion of plaintiff IFFA's presentation of its evidence, defendant TWA moved for dismissal of the claim, pursuant to Rule 41(b), Fed. R. Civ. P. Unlike the appraisal made at that stage in a jury case, the court's duty is to evaluate the evidence presented with the same critical analysis that would be made by the ultimate trier of fact at the conclusion of the case. *Lang v. Cone*, 542 F.2d 751 (8th Cir. 1976); *Palmentere v. Campbell*, 344 F.2d 234, 237 (8th Cir. 1965); *White Industries v. Cessna Aircraft Co.*, 657 F.Supp. 687, 694 (W.D. Mo. 1986). For reasons stated below, TWA's motion will be granted. IFFA's claim for general reinstatement will be denied.

## I. FACTS

A. A general statement of factual findings, from the evidence already adduced, will be set forth in this section of the opinion, with the understanding, however, that other factual statements made throughout the opinion are deemed pertinent to the conclusions. The parties have supplied over 800 pages of proposed findings and narra-

tive statements and arguments concerning the facts, emphasizing their conflicting conclusions. This court has attentively listened to the evidence and oral arguments now comprising some 7,000 pages of transcript and has immersed itself in documents and designations from depositions not read into evidence. It is deemed unnecessary and inexpedient to further delay a ruling by articulating comparable detailed discussions largely directed toward rehearsing the negotiating postures and contentions of the parties. To the extent the Court of Appeals may wish to probe deeper into certain factual issues, the materials supplied by the parties as proposed findings will be useful as a guide or index to the evidence.

It is this court's view that the great bulk of the materials would be most pertinent to an "interest arbitration" proceeding, in which a neutral party would make a determination from all material supplied what appropriate changes should have been made in wages, fringe benefits and work rules. While not irrelevant to a decision on the reasonableness of bargaining positions and tactics and the ultimate issue of intent to enter into a new collective bargaining agreement, it is believed that a summary review will suffice for present purposes. While there were of course different ways to try this case I am not critical of the parties for presenting so much detail, given the importance of the result. Another month of trial time could be foreseen, if TWA were to fully develop its defenses.

IFFA has been the exclusive bargaining representative of TWA flight attendants since April 1977. Other unions represented the flight attendants since the 1940s. The first IFFA-TWA contract was signed in October 1978. The first agreement was subject to amendment beginning in 1981, but negotiations continued into 1983, when the parties agreed on a 31% wage increase over three years, retroactive for two years. The printed replacement contract, referred to in litigation as the "Red Book," is the

latest completed contract between the parties. It was scheduled to remain in effect at least until July 31, 1984 (generally referred to by the parties as the "amendable date").

TWA sought mid-term concessions valued at \$33 million but the parties were unable to reach agreement. Bargaining on Red Book changes began after TWA served a notice of intended changes in February 1984.

From the beginning of negotiations TWA made known that it was seeking work rules changes that would create a "new life-style" for its flight attendants; it also initially sought salary concessions.

IFFA counsel Jolley prepared a memorandum to his clients suggesting negotiating strategy, acknowledging that concessionary bargaining by IFFA would be the major subject matter of negotiations and stating that IFFA's posture should be one of "close and cautious scrutiny." He urged IFFA to adopt a stance of "cautious willingness to listen and entertain, but which places the burden of persuasion on TWA." He noted the possibility that "at some point [IFFA may] be forced to file a lawsuit to compel TWA to provide us with . . . necessary and relevant information." IFFA's president, Victoria Frankovich, is the only member of the negotiating committee who seems to have personally reviewed the Jolley memorandum.

IFFA's general goal was to postpone adverse changes in the contract for as long as possible, and to obtain some improvements in the agreement. It was generally supposed that "time is on our side" (Exh. 22, p. 060337) since the contract was considered to be favorable and TWA's economic prospects were believed by IFFA to be improving.

Having failed to obtain mid-term concessions, TWA's initial bargaining technique in early 1984, under the im-

mediate direction of its chief negotiator, J. W. Hoar, was designed to hurry the process toward agreement by July 31, 1984. TWA at that time had a maximum objective or "wish list" of changes in work rules and wages that would result in a 25% reduction in flight attendant costs for an annual saving of some \$64 million.

During April 1984, IFFA sent a questionnaire to its members itemizing TWA proposals for work rules changes and obtained results showing widespread opposition to such changes. In the early negotiations IFFA continuously sought detailed explanations of the proposed changes and generally received responsive replies in operational terms but frequent resistance from Hoar to questions seeking financial and economic estimates and details. For example, on one occasion the candid notes of TWA negotiating team member Murphy (acknowledged to be careful and legible, Doc. 218, n.29) reflect Hoar's statement: "I do not intend to get into what relationship one proposal has on the other, or what each individual proposal will yield what \$ savings or headcount. Recall in the past, this exercise led to wrong conclusions. These approx. figures are subject to changes. We will give you no more figures than that [referring to an \$8 million insurance cost]." Exh. 22, pp. 060046-7. In another exchange typical of the early negotiations, Hoar said, "Xcept IAM, whom we intend to ask, all other groups have given." Frankovich asked, "By 25%?" Hoar replied, "U are seeking an issue for PR to F/As." *Id.*, pp. 060058-9.

On May 8, 1984, Hoar stated that because the positions of the parties were so divergent, TWA had applied for mediation. A mediator was appointed in July.

In June 1984, TWA's president C.E. Meyer, Jr., made a presentation to the negotiating committee, tending to show that TWA had suffered an operating loss of \$72 million in the first quarter of 1984, placing it "dead last" among major carriers. He also presented informa-

tion tending to show that TWA's flight attendant costs were the highest in the industry and over 23% above the industry average for the major airlines, a dollar value of some \$44.2 million annually. While IFFA continues to question this and other economic data supplied by TWA (Exh. 78, a handout on 7/19/84) it has not presented contrary materials on these points or anything to dispute TWA's good faith belief in the Meyer presentation.<sup>2</sup>

Meyer also stated that between 1978 and 1984 TWA's total flight attendant pay and benefits annual cost per employee increased from about \$20,000 to \$44,000, or 120%, during a period when pilot costs had increased by 49% and mechanic costs had increased by 79%. Without conceding or disproving the accuracy of these points, IFFA contends that the comparisons are irrelevant in that flight attendant benefits lagged behind the other groups prior to 1978. A TWA publication in April 1984, reporting these figures (not shown to have been protested by IFFA) acknowledged that "it might be said with some justification that some have moved faster because they felt they had farther to go." Exh. 69.

There was no significant progress in negotiations until early 1985. Based in part upon TWA's profit of \$30 million for 1984 a management decision was made to "go for a deal" by significantly reducing demands. A new comprehensive proposal was presented on February 22, 1985. Apparent leadership in this major move was provided by then-executive vice president Richard D. Pearson who became president later in 1985 but began losing

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<sup>2</sup> An IFFA consultant reported to it in August 1984, that available comparative figures showed TWA's international flight attendant costs were 34% above the industry average and domestic costs were 21% higher. Exh. K at 2. The figures disregard People Express and Southwest. *Id.* at 4. While there are reasons to question the industry figures, nothing better is available.

influence as Carl Icahn's ownership interest strengthened during 1985.<sup>3</sup>

The proposal by TWA in February 1985 reduced the value of its demands by approximately one-half. The new proposal completely eliminated a demand for a 16% wage reduction (worth approximately \$32 million annually without considering fringe benefits) and deleted some 17 proposals for work rule, fringe benefit and contract changes. Pearson "felt" that the proposal went "about as far as we can go" and told Frankovich it should serve as a "framework" for an agreement. Some TWA officials believed the reduction in its demands went too far; Pearson defends the reduction and characterizes some of the withdrawn demands as "very harsh" and probably beyond the range of demands that IFFA representatives could agree to and obtain membership approval.

IFFA did not react favorably to the greatly moderated demands by TWA. During the final month of negotiations in the spring of 1985, IFFA representatives made minimal requests for further information. The last spe-

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<sup>3</sup> Pearson is a significant actor in this litigation. Evaluation of his testimony is elusive. IFFA introduced his post-employment deposition and apparently relies on some of his appraising comments as admissions. He left TWA's employ some months after the Icahn takeover and seems to have had no significant role during the critical period in 1986. Differences of opinion and judgment within TWA's management are obvious, and Pearson now has at least a psychological incentive to defend the comparatively generous position of TWA negotiators in early 1985. TWA questions his experience in flight attendant work rule issues. While there is no reason to doubt the general credibility of his testimony, some self-serving emotional bias doubtless affects his commentary during the deposition testimony. Comments during his tenure with TWA in private discussions with IFFA representatives should also be somewhat discounted in that there was apparent role-playing between Hoar as the hard-liner and Pearson as a moderator. Pearson's general moderation in 1985 seems to have had some influence in causing IFFA to miscalculate TWA's "bottom line" demand in 1986.

cific and generalized requests seem to have been on April 11. Exh. 22, pp. 060442, 060447-455. Instead, IFFA stood firm in resisting TWA's proposals. Revealing statements made during this period included the following: "The changes you are demanding will not be accepted by our work force." Exh. 22, p. 060474. "We like what we have and we want to keep it." *Id.*, p. 060461. "As TWA rises in the industry, the need to grant concessions will become more difficult. You have previously rejected, by design/miscalculation our previous offers." *Id.*, p. 060465. Responding to one of the more important proposals, regarding "Flex Cap" (scheduling and overtime flexibility), when TWA argued that an IFFA counter-proposal was addressed to domestic flights only, whereas TWA claimed it had demonstrated inefficiencies in international flights, IFFA responded, "We did not want to move at all. We moved on Domestic even though we did not want to do so. Those are our answers." *Id.*, p. 060460. Previously the statement was made, "We think Intl is fine the way it is. Intl FAs like it." *Id.*

The negotiating stance of IFFA during the last month of bargaining in early 1985 is reminiscent of Hoar's brusque disregard of IFFA's concerns in early 1984. Despite the apparent deadlock, Pearson believed the parties had reached "manageable" differences where persuasion by the mediator might bring about an agreement, presumably within the "framework" of TWA's February proposals.

IFFA sought release from further negotiations in May 1985. Such a release by the National Mediation Board would have started a 30-day countdown and the possibility of a strike during the summer season of 1985, the "best possible time" to exert pressure on TWA because of its dependence on profitable overseas travel. Such a contingency had been forecast by Frankovich in March. In May 1985, IFFA sought and received from its members "overwhelming authorization to strike."

Simultaneously with the request for a release from negotiations, IFFA prepared and sent to TWA a lengthy request for detailed financial information about TWA's proposals. Exh. 131. The negotiation record of the previous month makes it entirely unlikely that IFFA was urgently or primarily concerned in late May 1985 with obtaining information. There is no specific evidence that IFFA had been communicating with Meyer or Pearson or the mediator to make good on earlier pledges that Hoar would provide requested information. At least one major motivation for the blanket request seems to have been the creation of a record for possible litigation (if the release was not timely granted) or exertion of some pressures or legal worries during a countdown. This finding does not deal with the legitimacy of the various requests, but has a bearing on the issue of causation of the March 1986 strike.

In May 1985 United Airlines pilots struck. In the same month, Carl Icahn made a bid for TWA. Apparently recognizing that those events rendered a release inadvisable, the NMB merely recessed talks. Talks were not resumed until December. One of the three best prospects for settlement was thereby missed.<sup>4</sup>

B. The next period of negotiations began with conferences with Carl Ichan, a private individual, for whose conduct from June through September 1985, TWA is not legally responsible. The course of negotiations is important, however, in appraising the renewed sessions with TWA officials in December 1985 and thereafter, after Icahn became the controlling stockholder in TWA.

Takeover attempts began in May 1985. Separate attempts were made by Icahn and Frank Lorenzo of Texas Air, whose takeover of Continental Airlines and subse-

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<sup>4</sup> As will appear, in retrospect the other opportunities were in August 1985 (negotiations with Icahn) and December 1985 (using Pearson's remaining influence).

quent avoidance of collective bargaining agreements through use of the bankruptcy laws had made him notorious with airline unions. After some false starts, the three major unions, ALPA, IAM and IFFA, began to deal with Icahn as a prospective "white knight." At a meeting in June, Icahn told the unions that he needed a 20% reduction in labor costs, then considered to be approaching \$1.5 billion, in order to attract lenders needed for his acquisition of stock; he also urged a speedy resolution (apparently so that his plans would not be endangered by stock market fluctuations). Icahn asked a 20% reduction from each of the unions. While initially speaking of labor costs comprehensively, to achieve a saving of \$300 million, he clarified his request to concessions in wages and benefits, saying he did not understand work rules and productivity issues.

ALPA, representing pilots, agreed immediately, and was later persuaded to accept a 26% reduction. The average pilot wages amounted to \$90,000. The wage sacrifice by pilots would thus have averaged some \$23,000. In order to obtain ALPA agreement, Icahn agreed contractually to use his "best efforts" to obtain 20-22% concessions from others.

IAM was initially opposed to any concessions, but after negotiations with IAM representative Peterpaul, Icahn came to believe on Friday, August 2, 1985, that he could reach agreement on a 15% concession that weekend. IFFA negotiations were scheduled to occur last. Icahn called Frankovich on August 2, however, and urged that she remain available for weekend negotiations that he hoped would complete contract commitments from the three unions and permit him to move immediately to complete stock purchases assuring him of control of TWA.

Frankovich had remained in New York on several occasions in July without being invited into negotiations (except for one evening session of informal visiting which she declined because she would be "outnumbered"). She

was scheduled to be hostess at a class reunion party in California on Saturday night, the 3rd, but told Icahn she or other IFFA representatives could be available during the weekend. The matter was not thereafter pursued by either party. A meeting later Friday with Icahn was scheduled and held; this was the first individual bargaining meeting between Icahn and IFFA representatives.

Icahn asked IFFA to agree to the 20% reduction previously sought; IFFA insisted it would not go beyond the 15% that Icahn expected from IAM. Arguments turned bitter over the question whether IFFA was entitled to parity with IAM. Generally accepting for this ruling the firm trial testimony of Frankovich, insofar as it departs from the deposition testimony of Icahn, which seems somewhat unsure as to exact dates and statements, and at one point in phrasing seems calculated, Icahn made various arguments: (1) the mechanics were a "skilled work force"; (2) the mechanics' pay was "competitive with the industry"; (3) IFFA had enjoyed disparate increases, as compared with IAM; (4) Frankovich was "missing the point" in that Icahn was talking about the marketplace and "I can get people to do your job for a lot less than you want . . . See that girl on the street out there? That is a stewardess"; (5) responding to Frankovich's statement that janitors were in the IAM bargaining unit, "A janitor is a breadwinner [who] probably has got a family at home to support [while] you girls are second incomes and you don't need the money"; and (6) after vehement argument, "Well, what are you to do about it? Are you going to blow up the airplanes? Are you going to burn down the airline?" Tr. 3943-8.

Accepting for this motion the essential soundness of the Frankovich testimony, it is concluded that Icahn's basic points were that "the marketplace" put flight attendants in a weak position because they could be replaced inexpensively and he did not believe the flight attendants were capable of stopping airline operations and thereby

imposing noncompetitive salaries. In discussing the legal issues additional factual observations will be made but it is concluded that points (4) and (6) were reasons or suppositions that would be and were controlling in conventional economic terms. The rhetoric that miscarried was a clumsy effort to persuade that degenerated into wise-cracks.

A calculating businessman is quite unlikely to adjust middle income wages to the "needs" of his workers, although he may try to persuade them to accept his proposals by contending they do not need any more than is proposed. Icahn's subsequent inquiries and comments about the "breadwinner" issue during the months ahead simply show he was brooding over the debating point that boomeranged. When his terminology became controversial, weeks and months before the strike, he was well aware that many or most flight attendants were primary breadwinners.

An agreement with IAM was completed over the weekend and Icahn bought stock on Monday, in reliance on the two agreements. This is a further indication that Icahn concluded he could afford to gamble with IFFA but that the pilots and mechanics were necessary to his prospects. On Tuesday he met with Frankovich and again was unable to reach agreement although they were tantalizingly close. Frankovich offered a 17% concession at a time when Icahn was still willing to agree on 20%, and Icahn testified credibly that he thought perhaps on Sunday IAM might have agreed to 17%, thus making the IFFA offer compatible with his perceived needs that day. In light of the pilots' offer of 26%, he could afford to yield 3% to both IAM and IFFA and still achieve his goal. It is speculative, however, what would have occurred if there had been joint or concurrent sessions on Sunday, just as it is speculative (looking forward to December) whether Pearson could have struck a bargain at 20%, despite reluctance at that time by Ichan, if such a proposal had been pushed by IFFA.

After Icahn's stock ownership gave him effective control over labor contracts, he learned that TWA still had a pending proposal for work rules changes but a pay pause. This being inconsistent with his individual bargaining, he directed that the pending proposal be withdrawn, as it was in October, and that new proposal be made which would contain both a reduction in wages and work rules changes. The new proposal, made in December, effectively restarted negotiations by demanding concessions that more than doubled the demands made by Icahn in June and by TWA in May.

My best appraisal of the causes of the major increase in TWA demands from IFFA would be (1) a personality and experience difference tending to produce bold, nearly reckless moves by Icahn and more moderate, accommodating and conventional proposals by Pearson, (2) sharply adverse business conditions at TWA, personally felt by Icahn in his financing opportunities, which allowed him to assert material adverse changes to renegotiate his purchase offer to minority stockholders and probably caused new concerns about TWA's future and the value of his investment; and (3) awareness that IFFA had become contractually isolated from potential allies and was perceived to have little economic clout. The more diabolical alternatives of Icahn's sexist bias or his desire for a confrontation and strike seem quite unlikely, as a matter of common experience and in the factual context discussed here and subsequently.

According to Icahn deposition testimony, designated and not contradicted (pp. 262-3), "the projections were coming in way, way off what we thought and we weren't able to raise the money through Paine Webber. Everything that hit the industry was hitting it. I was looking at the number and saying, my God, I should have asked for a lot more from the pilots and IAM, but I had deals with them . . . When I got into the company we had the bombing at the airport, the fare wars were going on, the

projections were coming in eight or ten times over. The loss was eight or ten times over what we thought it was going to be." Projections for the fourth quarter loss in 1985 increased from \$12 million to \$120 million. Dep. pp. 222-3, 262. The anticipated profit for the year (\$50 million—Exh. 22, p. 060477) had turned into a loss expected to exceed \$125 million. A later calculation of the 1985 loss was \$193 million. Exh. 288. Cash reserves fell from \$400 million in April 1985 to \$50 million by December. While many of the losses were not likely to recur in 1986 and later years, terrorism and fare wars could easily be recurring problems. Presumably without taking into account such unpredictable factors, a 1986 profit of \$225 million was forecast. This assumed \$200 million in increased revenues.

While TWA had traditionally compared itself with certain major airlines (Pan Am, Northwest, Eastern, United—Pearson Depo. 126), Continental and People Express were becoming formidable competition for TWA. Tr. 2226, 1646-7. There is no reason to believe that Icahn expected that high cost, high fare routes would be safe from low cost discounters, or that he desired to keep TWA in its traditional mode.

The December 2, 1985, comprehensive proposal by TWA (Exh. 48) sought a 22% reduction in pay, major changes in work rules and other cost-reduction items. Most of the work rule proposals of February 1984 were reintroduced, but there were some modifications, including several IFFA proposals. Hoar valued the changes at \$88 million annually; Icahn made an estimate of \$110 million. TWA told the negotiators that Icahn had achieved \$200-220 million out of a \$300 million objective in reduced labor costs from all sources. Exh. 22, pp. 060478-9. That calculation would require picking up an additional \$80-100 million from IFFA. TWA internal documents generally show comparable valuations. See Exh. 529, with a few different estimated values, proposing \$90 million in

flight attendant savings, and Exh. FFF, the apparent source of the negotiation estimates. Frankovich in a February pre-strike "road show" presentation, said it is "pretty obvious" where the differences yielding \$110 million come from, correctly noting that a crew complement proposal was not given a bargaining table value by TWA. Exh. 512, p. 5. Her trial testimony suggested that Icahn may have treated the unvalued B-scale provision as a source of predictable savings.

Hoar supplied a breakdown per item of the company proposal. Exh. 22, pp. 060495-6. He failed to mention two overtime savings estimates on Flex Cap and Bidding; adding the disclosed items together would show omissions and apparent error in that the totals would not reach \$88 million otherwise. IFFA was aware that significant overtime savings were anticipated from the two proposals in question. Tr. 3658-9.

Frankovich also told flight attendants that there was more than the disclosed \$80,000 saving in having them "doing ticket agent job in terminal." Exh. 512, p. 5. Exh. 529, an internal document, does show a saving of \$2.5 million for ticket lift. Another internal document (Exh. FFF) estimates only \$80,000, however, TWA official Borden testified that the larger sum did not represent a saving, but an avoidance of additional cost of hiring more passenger agents. Borden Depo., pp. 161-2. While it might be expected that TWA would give some credit for additional flight attendant work likely to avoid some future expenses, it would not misrepresent the facts to say that TWA did not expect the proposal to reduce *current* costs. This was similar to the TWA handling of B-scale salaries for new hires, potentially probably a more significant matter.

The saving on TWA's proposal to move flight attendants to less valuable rest seats was variously estimated at \$1 million and \$3.5 million in internal documents.

Exhs. FFF, 529. While it might be supposed that TWA could have made more accurate and consistent estimates, such a conclusion is a supposition only and pretrial discovery has not established lack of good faith in making these estimates. It is apparent from inconsistencies in TWA's own internal figures that placing dollar values on predictions is an inexact science, as those who follow Federal deficit predictions should already be aware.

From early December until March, after release of the parties from formal bargaining, there was no dramatic change in bargaining positions of either side. Most of the significant activity was in private sessions. Frankovich did not appear at the bargaining table during this period, but was engaged in several private discussions with Pearson and Icahn and, in February, in addressing flight attendants to rally them for an anticipated strike.

IFFA's posture with its members and at the bargaining table was to show "anger and determination . . . STEADFAST RESISTANCE." Its spokesperson at the table did acknowledge that "IFFA, recognizes TWA's difficulties. We see satellites as a significant area where you can be helped." Exh. 22, p. 060500. At a later date it was estimated by IFFA that a statellite program would be worth \$4-5 million. Exh. 22, p. 060553, Tr. 2046. IFFA's commissioned study of satellites (accommodations to residential disbursement of crew members) had already shown they would provide little economic relief to TWA. Exhs. WW, XX. Hoar's conduct at the bargaining table was at least equally unhelpful, and apparently often abrasive.

Frankovich and attorney Jolley met with Pearson, still TWA's president, in December, before and after meeting with Icahn. Pearson suggested that IFFA would have to grant TWA concessions of at least 20% in order to obtain an agreement. Frankovich expressed interest in that figure (3% more than her highest offer to Icahn in August), and Pearson may have said he had "half a mind" to see what he could do with the TWA board of directors.

Vol. II, Pearson Depo., p. 37. Neither side made a definite offer, and Pearson implicitly acknowledged he might not be able to persuade Icahn or a majority of the Board that such a settlement should occur. He told the IFFA representatives that he had a "limited life expectancy" with TWA. Neither party pursued the concept. It is unclear whether the discussion related to a percentage of wages or total costs.

After a preliminary meeting in January between Jolley and Hoar at which it appeared that the parties were very far apart,<sup>5</sup> Frankovich and Icahn met under the auspices of the NMB on January 22 and 23, 1986, at a time when the NMB was considering releasing the parties for self-help. IFFA made another proposal for a temporary 15% reduction in wages and a B-scale (new hire) proposal somewhat above the rate TWA proposed to use.<sup>6</sup> This was rejected by TWA, and the NMB notified the parties on February 4, 1986, of their release from formal bargaining, thus beginning a 30-day countdown before self-help would be authorized. Exh. 151.

By letter dated January 30, 1986, IFFA asserted that it had received inadequate information from TWA in negotiations on December 4, 1985, almost eight weeks earlier, and requested data on the flight attendant, mechanic and pilot work forces, concessions made by the IAM and

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<sup>5</sup> Hoar confirmed his pessimism in an internal note dated February 10, 1986, stating he had agreed to a bargaining committee meeting "for political/legal reasons" but that "it is too early in the cooling off period" to have "high expectations." The letter does implicitly indicate some hope for a settlement later in the countdown. Exh. 292.

<sup>6</sup> It may be noted, however, that although the "average head cost" of experienced flight attendants was calculated at \$41,785 annually (Exh. 529) IFFA had no serious quarrel with a B-scale for new hires at about \$1,000 per month. Exh. 49, p. 3. Frankovich recognized that figure as the market rate at which people could be hired. Tr. 4634. The starting monthly salary under a 1985 Pan Am contract was \$784. Exh. Z, p. 18.

ALPA, and detailed cost information on each TWA proposal, separately presented by subpart. It also asked for an explanation of all calculations made in valuing the proposed savings. Exh. 50. A preliminary response was made by TWA on February 4. Exh. 151. Further responses were made at a meeting on February 13. Exh. 22, pp. 060523-7. An additional written response was made on February 24, 1986. Exh. 140.

TWA declined at that time to supply information about other work groups. This was unreasonable, as the parties had continuously discussed issues relating to other work groups, either as an accommodation or to advance some argument. While no such argument is controlling, some are of considerable significance; for example, TWA's trial contention that it was generally seeking work rules no more onerous than had been agreed to by the pilots, the other members of a flight crew.<sup>7</sup>

Basic financial estimates regarding the TWA proposals have generally been supplied. To the extent details, calculations and breakdowns on the proposals and counter-proposals were available and were not supplied, such materials and theories have been explored after filing of litigation in March 1986. Such information has led to some further quarrels between the parties, but their potential for shaping an agreement between the parties has not been demonstrated or asserted by IFFA, except in the abstract.

Hoar testified in designated portions of his deposition that Jolley told him, in their meeting in January 1986, not to be "concerned about the numbers." Hoar Depo.,

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<sup>7</sup> There is no reason to believe, however, that IFFA lacked access to ALPA agreements or could not learn from pilots the work rules under which they operated and the success of such operations. Frankovich viewed such an argument as degrading to flight attendants, because of other pilot benefits, but stated that at one time IFFA did not resist arguments for conforming to the pilots' work rules. Tr. 5198.

pp. 611, 615-6. Apparently Jolley was referring to the details, not the general parameters of an agreement. While Jolley had not known authority to waive IFFA demands for information, the testimony tends to confirm that the issue of missing information was not the real impediment to agreement.

While Frankovich was aware, from the Jolley memorandum, that a claim of denial of information could lead to litigation, and would thus be helpful to IFFA, and she referred to such denial in her February 1986 "road show" presentation (Exh. 512, p. 1), the reference was confined to the first period of negotiations ending in May of 1985 and not to the period after valuations were given for the December 1985 proposals. The 15 page outline of her presentation contains a considerable array of knowledge and contentions about the pertinent numbers, as of February 1986.

A mediator designated by the NMB attended almost every bargaining session where requests for information were made. A primary function of a mediator in assisting parties to reach agreement would normally be to obtain appropriate information that may lead to agreements. Tr. 4378. Unless TWA simply did not wish to reach an agreement (a matter considered below) and thus rejected appeals from the mediator in the confidential sessions, any failure to supply information would indicate (1) nonexistence of hard figures or (2) lack of insistence from the mediator, on the theory that the parties were too far apart in their concepts to make economic details meaningful.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> On March 1, 1986, the mediator stated that "The Co. has provided answers (numbers) to Union Qs. I suggest any outstanding/follow-up Qs be dealt with now. Does the Union have Qs." Frankovich responded that she would like to "start at the beginning." The mediator urged her to "keep to the substantial ones." Exh. 22, p. 060534. After an hour's recess, IFFA listed and the parties summarily discussed 21 topics. *Ibid.*, pp. 060534-44. After a brief

Trial testimony confirms that no informational disclosures obtained through discovery could have materially affected the negotiations, if known earlier. There was no convincing response to questions from the bench seeking identification of problem areas where more information could have broken the deadlock. *See, e.g.*, Tr. 4458, et seq., 4758-9. A list of TWA priorities, for example, seems not to have existed. Dollar values assigned by TWA would show how concessions tempting to TWA might be structured. No information sought from TWA could likely result in flight attendants accepting the work rules concessions that would have filled the chasm between TWA's evaluation of IFFA's best offer on March 6, and the minimum sought by Icahn. No financial information or calculations could have persuaded the flight attendants to increase their offer by \$20, \$30 or 40 million. Tr. 4338-40.

One of the matters that aggravated relations between the parties in February 1986 was a statement in a widely publicized letter to employees signed by both Icahn and Pearson asserting that flight attendants had received grossly disproportionate increases from 1981-1986 (40.1% for IFFA as against 11.6% for IAM). Exh. 279-A. This serious miscalculation was privately acknowledged (Exh. 140 and 302), but there was no public retraction. This blunder permitted Frankovich to call TWA's "lie" (Exh. 512, p. 10) and to assert at IFFA rallies, "you know both the IAM and IFFA got the same increases in the last negotiations." Icahn was depicted in an IFFA pamphlet with a Pinocchio nose. Apparently TWA could, in good

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meeting with the parties the mediator simply asked for new proposals. *Ibid.*, p. 060545. While a review of the discussion does not show it to be a model of good bargaining it is quite unlikely that substantial follow-up questions that could make or break the success of negotiations would have been allowed, either by the mediator or IFFA, to drift unanswered into the final hours of the countdown. It is further noted that there is no record of post-strike requests for financial information in bargaining sessions, and no such requests have been made to the court.

faith, have used the Meyer material, covering a longer period, or referred to its earlier publication (Exh. 69), to contend without denial that IFFA had indeed obtained increases exceeding IAM's rising costs by some 50%, albeit IFFA was then coming up from a lower base.

There is an inherent tension between the two major IFFA theories, lack of information (including misinformation) and excessiveness of TWA's demands. If TWA simply wanted too much, the details of what it wanted would not have much significance. The trial testimony comes considerably closer to establishing the assertion of excessive demands than the theory that failure to supply information possessed by TWA was a cause of the ultimate impasse. One of the credibility strengths of the Frankovich testimony, for example, was her method of resolving this tension. In tonality throughout, and also in words, she spoke much more forcefully in charging excessive demands rather than lack of information as the ultimate cause of the strike. Tr. 4514.

The various claims of misconduct in bargaining by TWA prior to the strike, apart from the issue of excessive demands, may, for purposes of ruling TWA's motion, be generally accepted; they fall short, however, of even plausibly being a cause of the impasse. Even assuming there were numerous instances of bullying and occasional devious behavior by TWA bargainers and supporting staff, such misconduct would have been directed toward tricking or coercing IFFA into making a bad bargain. It must be emphasized, in fairness, that the court has not heard a developed defense by TWA and any impressions would necessarily be formed from hearing only part of the story. But taking matters at their worst, IFFA was not in fact trapped or pushed into making a bad bargain, and did not strike because of frustration at the bargaining table. It plainly appears from the record that the sole cause of the impasse was the wide divergence between the demands of TWA (Icahn) and the more

modest concessions proposed by IFFA. This being the case, the basic factual issues are whether TWA's ultimate demands have been shown to be beyond the range of reasonableness and/or designed to force a strike rather than to reach agreement.

Again it seems unprofitable to detail each move in the final days of the countdown. Icahn concluded that IFFA had moved toward his objectives only marginally, and Bryner, upon whom he was relying for details in the final hours of negotiations, placed a value of \$39 or \$40 million on IFFA's best offer. Bryner Depo., p. 71. This was some \$33 million less than Bryner's understanding of Icahn's bottom line demand. Bryner Depo., p. 74. Icahn's estimate of the gap was from "about \$50 million," his recollection of his valuation of IFFA's best offer, and "maybe even \$78 million," his estimate of what it would take for a settlement. Icahn Depo., pp. 360, 365. Thus Icahn thought the parties would have been at least \$28 million apart, if he had reached his minimum figure. Hoar said the gap in actual negotiations was \$40 million. Tr. 4058.

The principal move on the last day of negotiation was Icahn's. He stated willingness to reduce the pay concession by 5%, to 17% (the figure Frankovich had reached in August), to drop a demand to eliminate company payments to union representatives, and he made a general proposal, in exchange for Flex Cap, that "we won't slash anyone." Tr. 2078-9, 4030. Frankovich has the most detailed version of discussions on the latter point, and recollects that she asked if Icahn was proposing a no-furlough agreement, to which he replied, "not the kind you mean." Tr. 4030-1. TWA contends that if Frankovich is believed the reference by Icahn would have been to IFFA's "scope" proposal, which contained the most current "job security" reference, but also other provisions. Exh. 49 at 4. IFFA contends Icahn did not mean a "no furlough" provision, such as it pro-

posed later in the day. But rejection of the later package does not show disagreement with some variety of "no furlough" provision in exchange for agreement on Flex Cap. The parties did not pursue the matter. While it cannot be concluded that Icahn casually made a "priceless" proposal, as TWA contends, it will not be inferred that the statement lacked substance.

It cannot be concluded that TWA's bargaining demands were so grossly excessive that they exceeded the wide range of reasonableness, unless, as will be discussed in the legal portion of the brief, unlikelihood of IFFA's acceptance means that TWA was legally obligated to trim its demand. While the wage concession sought on March 6 was several points more than IAM had yielded, the reasons for this differential have been discussed. Disregarding Icahn's rhetorical flourishes on August 2, he had a right to believe and apparently did believe that the marketplace would supply substitutes for IFFA members at much less cost, that IFFA did not have the power to force noncompetitive wages on TWA, and that IFFA compensation increases had considerably outstripped those of a stronger union, IAM (at least during the period referred to in the Meyer presentation).

The IFFA members have a right to pride in their long service to TWA and their professionalism, which is probably not appreciated by the public. They view their responsibilities for passenger safety as their prime function. This mandates their presence on the aircraft and allows them to perform incidental duties that are more familiar to passengers. Tr. 4411. It was within the range of reason, however, for TWA and particularly Icahn to consider an average head cost of \$41,785 as considerably beyond the marketplace value of their services, when viewed in economic terms of the cost of an adequately trained substitute. Considering the hazards of the deregulated industry and of international travel on which TWA's success was dependent, it was reasonable

for TWA in purely economic terms to exercise hard bargaining to achieve major payroll savings and to demand from IFFA, the most feasible available source, a productivity cushion for possible economic turbulence ahead.

The work rules or "lifestyle" changes seem most naturally comparable to the other members of the flight crew, the pilots. IFFA has not demonstrated that TWA was seeking from flight attendants generally more rigorous time commitments than were made by pilots. If it would be considered "degrading" to conform to pilot work rules (Tr. 5198), such rules must be deemed by IFFA to be *more* demanding. Of course pilots receive much higher pay and perhaps benefits (Bryner Depo. at 380), presumably attributable to higher skills and responsibilities. Nothing presented, however, tends to show flight attendant entitlement to a less demanding or different lifestyle. TWA has made some showing, by contrast, that items 2 through 11 on the TWA list of demands (Exh. FFF, 529) were generally comparable to what ALPA had agreed to. Exh. 502. While IFFA disclaims the comparisons it does not show flaws in Bryner's analysis or conclusions. Depo. pp. 374-9, Exh. O. IFFA fails to show that what TWA sought was unreasonable (and arguably sexist) in that it would impose on flight attendants time and scheduling responsibilities more onerous than the lifestyle obligations of pilots.

The total of the wage concessions ultimately sought in bargaining and the work rule demands listed in items 2 through 11 is approximately \$69 million. Without reviewing the intrinsic reasonableness of other requested concessions in specifics, this roughly indicates that the range of reasonableness in making proposals is sufficiently broad to include what Icahn was seeking.

The court does not mean to suggest that it would have prescribed, in interest arbitration, anything like the TWA minimum demand, nor does it suggest that IFFA's position was unreasonable. It is inappropriate to take

sides on that question since it is unnecessary to a decision. I do emphasize the very wide range that the concept of reasonableness encompasses, and must encompass if courts and administrative agencies are not to be the regulators of wages and working conditions.

The remaining fact issue for the pre-strike period is whether TWA was engaged in sham or surface bargaining, concealing an intent or wish not to reach agreement. The evidence is clearly to the contrary, apart from the legal issue of whether failure to withdraw allegedly harsh demands, individually or collectively, because there is a likelihood of a strike, can be treated as unlawful bargaining conduct.

While Hoar's behavior at the bargaining table was occasionally arrogant, this is consistent with putting on a convincing show of a proper intent to insist upon much more dramatic concessions than IFFA was proposing. There is no evidence that Hoar sought to place TWA in the risky and inevitably burdensome financial position that a strike would create. In any event, he was an agent for others.

It is not contended that Pearson or Meyer was seeking a strike or was insistent on managerial dictation of terms as a matter of principle or antiunion animus. On the contrary, Pearson was notably well-disposed towards IFFA and there was a tradition of dealing with unions.

The evidence presented does not permit a conclusion that Icahn sought a strike or was unwilling to negotiate. While his techniques may not have been those of an experienced labor negotiator, his entry on the scene led to agreements with ALPA and the IAM in record time, at least in Railway Labor Act terms. He used every argument he could think of (including a few that were inappropriate) in seeking agreement with IFFA in August 1985. TWA's greatly increased bargaining demands in December and thereafter do not, as is often the case,

evidence sham bargaining. There were changed conditions from both the spring and the summer months, and Icahn was simply a different person from those earlier in charge. If a union election occurs during bargaining, and more militant officers are elected, a drastic change in bargaining positions would be anticipated, without evidencing any bad faith in bargaining.

Neither IFFA nor TWA showed much flexibility from December until the strike, in the sense that neither side moved into the range of a probable settlement. Taking a "hard line" is, however, quite consistent with a desire to reach agreement. A tendency to yield may weaken credibility and start a pattern of continuous retreat. Hoar's note in February indicates an expectation of last minute movement, which did occur, although not nearly enough to bring agreement.

Icahn's reluctance to attend the final sessions is not revealing. He had become an object of antagonism and would apparently have preferred to leave Hoar at the table, a common technique. His behavior on March 6 shows an intense desire for agreement, although one very close to his reduced terms. The IFFA bargaining committee recognized that he became "crazy . . . very excited." Tr. 3555-6. He appealed to IFFA representatives not to take their members "over the cliff." He warned of great danger. His deposition credibly expresses considerable alarm at the possibility of strike losses and his concern that the IAM might support IFFA. He accurately characterizes his plea to IFFA as "impassioned." Icahn Depo., pp. 371-2, 397-8. As the IFFA representatives left the room on March 6, he said "there goes \$50 million or \$60 million" (Tr. 3513), apparently referring to strike losses as a waste of money. While the strike may ultimately have been beneficial to TWA, outweighing strike losses (at least if TWA prevails in this and possibly other litigation), plaintiff's proof falls considerably short of supporting a conclusion that Icahn planned it

that way, hoped for such a result or happily saw his hopes realized on March 6 and 7, 1986.

C. After the "cooling off" period expired on March 6, 1986, TWA implemented virtually all, or a vast majority, of its demands (going back to a 22% wage cut, for example) and IFFA struck.<sup>9</sup>

IFFA has contended that TWA's post-strike conduct prolonged the strike, and thereby converted the strike into an "unfair labor practice strike," if it could not initially be so characterized. Responding to an inquiry from the court at oral argument, IFFA does not suggest any date for any unlawful event that so antagonized the strikers as to convert what was hypothetically an economic strike into a more protected strike. Doc. 244, pp. 1, 8-9. This confirms the court's conclusion that the evidence does not show striker reaction to any post-strike event that caused the strike to become prolonged. The strike ended in mid-May 1986, and was not prolonged by the conduct now complained of. That conduct is summarized, however, insofar as it may have a bearing on the question of TWA's prior good faith in bargaining.

There is evidence that flight attendants on sick leave when the strike began were treated as strikers. In some instances such persons could not fairly be so characterized, for example, if an illness or other incapacity that began on or before March 6 continued unabated into mid-May. TWA contends there was such a high level of sick leave claims that it could be reasonably inferred there were strikers asserting sick leave for protection. There is an

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<sup>9</sup> The ability to implement work rules changes tends to show their feasibility (which IFFA challenged) and lays to rest any doubt that TWA really sought the changes (and was not just making demands to force confrontation). IFFA does not develop any contention that the limited number of unimplemented demands were demonstrably lacking in feasibility or otherwise known to be unsound when made.

IFFA contention, however, that the decision was made as early as February 28, 1986 (Doc. 219, p. 155). It may be that TWA made a serious mistake of fact or law in many individual cases. Any such violation of individual rights can be remedied, to the extent remedies have not already occurred (Exh. 406), and the conduct in question sheds no material light on the claim of bad faith bargaining or prolongation of the strike.

TWA took several actions based on the belief that the entire 1983 contract was at an end. It stopped complying with the union security clause. It stopped contributing to insurance premiums although it apparently gave IFFA and the individuals an opportunity to pay such premiums. After the strike ended, and before this court ruled in August 1986 that portions of the contract remained in effect, further instances of self-help, inconsistent with the Red Book, occurred. As this court's ruling in August acknowledged, however, an appellate case that seemed most directly in point lent support to the view that Red Book obligations (and in particular a union security clause) did not survive into the self-help period. See *TWA v. IFFA, supra*, cited in n.1. The question has caused an even division in the United States Supreme Court. Although it can now be said that TWA was legally in error, this would not suggest that the actions were not taken in good faith reliance on legal advice and would thus have no bearing on determining whether the earlier bargaining had been conducted in good faith.

In negotiations to end the strike and in post-strike negotiations, TWA made additional demands. As economic power grows it is normal for a party to seek to use it and to seek reparation for damages. No adverse inference will be drawn from post-strike heightening of TWA's demands. If the matter has significance, it can as easily be argued that it tends to show that TWA withheld some "wish list" matters in its pre-strike demands, thereby strengthening the TWA contention that its earlier de-

mands were reasonable and not designed to force a confrontation. On balance, the matter will be disregarded.

## II. LEGAL ISSUES

### A. General Statement

Collective bargaining obligations under the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. § 152, First) and the National Labor Relations Act have been treated as somewhat parallel, despite minor differences in the statutory language, at least since *NLRB v. American National Ins. Co.*, 343 U.S. 395, 402 n.8, 408 (1952). The Supreme Court in *Chicago & N.W. Ry. Co. v. United Transportation Union*, 402 U.S. 570 (1971) (C&NW), recognized non-statutory, judicial remedies for violation of the bargaining duty to "exert every reasonable effort to make . . . agreements."

The case which opens the courthouse doors here, *Chicago & N.W. Ry.*, 402 U.S. 570, held that a railroad company might seek to enjoin a strike, even after release of the parties by the National Mediation Board, on an allegation that the union had violated its statutory obligation to bargain on the issue in question. The courts were thus brought into the bargaining process, but with strict caveats by the majority and a strong dissent by Justice Brennan.

Four members of the Court, in a dissenting opinion by Justice Brennan, were of the view that the Railway Labor Act "excludes any role for the judiciary to oversee the relative efforts of the parties in their mutual attempt to reach settlement." 402 U.S. at 599. Five members, in an opinion by Justice Harlan, concluded there was a judicial role beyond simply ordering the parties "to recognize one another and sit down to bargain" (the Brennan characterization of the duty) and that the courts have a duty, on complaint, to determine at least if there has been bad faith in negotiations. 402 U.S. at 578-9. The majority volunteered, however, "two caveats." 402 U.S. at 579,

n.11. "First, parallels between the duty to bargain in good faith and the duty to exert every reasonable effort, like all parallels between the NLRA and the Railway Labor Act, should be drawn with the utmost care and with full awareness of the differences between the statutory schemes . . . Second, great circumspection should be used in going beyond cases involving 'desire not to reach an agreement,' for doing so risks infringement on the strong federal labor policy against governmental interference with the substantive terms of collective bargaining agreements." The majority joined the minority in counseling judicial "restraint in the issuance of strike injunctions based on violations of Sec. 2 First." 402 U.S. at 583. There should be no "freewheeling judicial interference in labor relations of the sort that called forth the Norris-LaGuardia Act . . ." *Id.* The majority further noted that Congress had amended the NLRA when it perceived that "the NLRB had intruded too deeply into the collective-bargaining process under the guise of enforcing the duty to bargain in good faith." *Id.*, n.19.

The lesson of *C&NW* has been well learned or anticipated, and judicial restraint has been sufficiently exercised to avoid further Congressional action. Never before this case has a court been asked to examine, at the behest of a union, a scenario of bargaining sessions, for the purpose of finding an employer violation of the bargaining law and imposing on the employer the severe sanctions rather frequently applicable to an "unfair labor practice strike" under the NLRA. There have been a limited number of cases, however, in which employers charged unions with making excessive demands at the bargaining table. In all such cases, the courts have rejected the invitation to declare demands excessive. *Trans International Airlines, Inc. v. Intern. Bhd. of Teamsters*, 650 F.2d 949, 958-9 (9th Cir. 1980) (Kennedy, J., affirming a decision by Peckham, C.J.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1110 (1981); *REA Express, Inc. v. Bhd. of Rwy. Clerks*, 358 F. Supp. 760, 771, 774-5 (S.D. N.Y. 1973); *Atlantic Coast Line*

*R.R. v. Bhd. of Rwy. Trainmen*, 262 F. Supp. 177, 183-5 (D. D.C. 1967), *rev'd. on other grounds*, 383 F.2d 225, *cert. den.*, 389 U.S. 1047. See also *Rwy. Labor Exec. Ass'n. v. Boston & Maine Corp.*, 664 F. Supp. 605 (D. Me. 1987); *Erie Lackawanna Ry. Co. v. Lighter Captains Union*, 338 F. Supp. 955 (D. N.J. 1972).

In the *TIA* case, Judge Kennedy approved a ruling that the union's increase in bargaining proposals from 61 to over 200 was a "reasonable response" to changed conditions (a merger). He quoted Judge Peckham's ruling that mere "exhorbitant size" of demands does not demonstrate a refusal to make reasonable efforts to reach an agreement, further quoting the comment that "'the court can find no previous decision under the RLA, nor can TIA suggest one, which has inferred lack of reasonable effort solely from the size of the proposals put forth by the parties.'" Two reductions in the union proposals were noted on appeal, although it was said that the union's bargaining was "'obstinate and unyielding.'" 650 F.2d at 958. While stating the precaution that the court was not holding that allegedly excessive proposals could *never* be the basis for a finding that a party did not comply with its bargaining obligations, Judge Kennedy cited the *REA* and *Atlantic Coast Line* cases for comparison with the *TIA* ruling. 650 F.2d at 959.

In the *Atlantic Coast Line* case, Judge Holtzoff refused an injunction after a full trial, simply noting his conclusion that "the negotiations were genuine" and that "the reasonableness of a proposal contained in a Section 6 notice [and apparently insisted upon through negotiations] should not be subject to judicial review." 262 F. Supp. at 184-5. Judge Holtzoff declined to examine critically the contention that proposals "must be within a debatable range and not so extreme as necessarily to preclude favorable consideration" by the other part. *Id.* In *Rwy. Labor Exec. Ass'n.*, *supra*, the same ruling was made last year as in *Atlantic Coast Line*, and for essentially the same reason.

In *REA Express, supra*, Judge Weinfeld observed that the cases demonstrate a primary concern under the RLA that the attitude of parties not amount to a "refusal to bargain." 358 F. Supp. at 771, n.43. Adoption "at all times" of a "take it or leave it" attitude is condemned, but this does not forbid choosing "to be adamant in its position." *Id.* at 772. The case precludes use of the courts to coerce employees to yield to employer offers that the employees deem inadequate, even though the employer may assert that a strike for the wages sought by the union may result in bankruptcy. The decision to force the railroad into bankruptcy was said to be the union's to make; "it is not management's; it is not the Court's." 358 F. Supp. at 774-5. If a union having a strategic position of power may lawfully bring an employer to economic ruin, a similarly placed employer may presumably insist lawfully on employee conditions that the union may consider devastating.

The above cases illustrate how the courts have been giving application to the RLA bargaining requirement, as they are obligated to under *C&NW*. The precautions of *C&NW* have been honored and in particular the courts have refrained from evaluating the substantive negotiation proposals of the parties. Implicit and sometimes explicit in the cases is adherence to an admonition of Judge Bryan, given almost thirty years ago, in a decision denying a preliminary injunction against a strike by the pilots' union:

Whether the pilots' [negotiating] position was right or wrong, wise or unwise, economically sound or unsound, are questions with which this court is not concerned. If the processes of the Railway Labor Act could not resolve these questions, this court can certainly not resolve them, nor is it its function to do so.

*American Airlines, Inc. v. ALPA*, 169 F. Supp. 777, 797 (S.D. N.Y. 1958). The courts are a safeguard against "merely perfunctory" compliance with bargaining duties,

and serve, with the National Mediation Board, to give assurance that there has been "good faith exhaustion of the possibility of agreement." 169 F. Supp. at 793. The ruling of Judge Bryan draws on an NLRA judicial source characterizing the requirement of good faith bargaining as "really a requirement of absence of bad faith." The question of subjective intent may be ruled from evidence presented, including any "conduct clearly showing a wish to defeat rather than to reach agreement." 169 F. Supp. at 793-5. The C&NW majority decision is entirely consistent with Judge Bryan's ruling, and the Supreme Court relied on the same standard, articulated by Chief Judge Magruder in the leading case of *NLRB v. Reed & Prince Mfg. Co.*, 205 F.2d 131, cert. den. 346 U.S. 887.<sup>10</sup>

Until last September, the general procedural standards for surveillance of bargaining under the RLA have been generally equated with those under the NLRA, with emphasis, however, on the precautions announced in C&NW.

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<sup>10</sup> As a practical matter it must be supposed that Congress could not have intended to authorize or require an in-depth review of the substantive negotiating positions of the parties or other similarly intrusive procedures to enforce the bargaining requirements of the RLA. Almost identical language, requiring exhaustion of "every reasonable effort to settle" a dispute, is contained in the Norris-LaGuardia Act as a prerequisite to injunctive relief. 29 U.S.C. § 108. The Congressional concern to avoid improvident exercise of federal judicial power in labor disputes surely was not carried to the extremes illustrated by this case, which would require litigation of 18 months or two years simply to determine whether a complainant had standing to seek injunctive relief. The parallel to the language used in the "clean hands" requirement is a powerful caution against engaging in the deeply probing form of litigation that IFFA advocates as necessary to a sound ruling and that may occasionally occur in the NLRA cases. A requirement of "blow-by-blow" fact-finding, as sometimes mandated in NLRA cases (*Pease Co. v. NLRB*, 666 F.2d 1044, 1046 n.2 (6th Cir. 1981)) could easily impose pre-trial, trial and fact-finding requirements that might consume three years in a massive case like this, where there are incentives to probe every minute detail.

A survey of such standards is contained in Judge Lacey's ruling in *Erie Lackawanna Ry. Co. v. Lighter Captains Union*, 338 F. Supp. 955 (D. N.J. 1972). That survey emphasizes then-current case law, particularly *C&NW*, for the proposition, governing that case, that courts should proceed with great caution in attempting to supervise bargaining efforts, particularly where there is an effort to interfere with self-help after exhaustion of mediation. It is worth noting, however, in light of one of IFFA's arguments, that the case quotes a decision by Judge Friendly in which the Second Circuit assumed arguendo that the Railway Labor Act imposes a somewhat greater duty to endeavor to reach agreement than does the National Labor Relations Act. *Chicago, Rock Island & Pac. R.R. Co. v. Switchmen's Union*, 292 F.2d 61, 70 (2d Cir. 1961), cert. den., 370 U.S. 936 (1962). That hypothetical assumption was made in the course of denying relief. It pre-dated the more cautionary language of *C&NW*. While a similar assumption is referred to in a district court decision subsequent to *C&NW* (*Japan AirLines Co. v. IAM*, 389 F. Supp. 27, 34 (S.D. N.Y. 1975)), affirmed, 538 F.2d 46 (2d Cir. 1976), the district court also concluded that the ultimate question is "whether the party charged with violation of its duty has merely gone through the motions of compliance . . . without a desire to reach an agreement." It is clear from *C&NW* that the RLA is to be construed as forbidding "surface bargaining" and little, if anything, further.

A further restriction on RLA bargaining duties and judicial supervision was announced by a panel of the Ninth Circuit in September. *Pacific Fruit Express and Union Pacific Fruit Express Joint Protective Bd., Bhd. Rwy. Carmen v. Union Pacific*, 826 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1987). *Pacific Fruit* decided that courts are not authorized to compel prearbitration fact discovery in a "minor dispute." The court's reasoning, however, is clearly applicable to the duties of parties and authority of courts

in a bargaining case and the court relied for its decision on *C&NW* and other bargaining case decisions. Moreover, the NLRA duty to provide information in aid of an arbitral process parallels the duty to provide information in bargaining. *NLRB v. Acme Industrial Co.*, 385 U.S. 432 (1967). The Ninth Circuit rejected an analogy to NLRA duties and the enforcement thereof, saying the courts should be "wary of drawing parallels" between the procedures under the two acts. 826 F.2d at 922. The court stated that "the extensive judicial intervention that court-ordered disclosure would require is inconsistent with the history and principles of the Railway Labor Act . . . Congress intended the parties to work out disputes themselves, with a minimum of judicial intervention . . . Pacific Fruit's interpretation of Section 2 First would place the courts at the heart of the bargaining process whenever either side in a railway labor dispute sought information about the other. We think Congress intended otherwise." 826 F.2d at 923.

*Pacific Fruit*, if followed, would deprive the courts of duties under what this court perceived to be the major contention that IFFA relied on in filing this suit. I do not think it safe to rely on *Pacific Fruit*, however, as the sole basis for rejecting IFFA's deprivation of information claim. It may be sufficient for the Court of Appeals, but I believe alternate reasoning is appropriate. My present inclination is against following *Pacific Fruit*.

It is my understanding that TWA's experienced labor counsel shared the court's view that if IFFA concluded, during negotiations, or indeed today, that it had been deprived of relevant information having a likely impact on bargaining judicial relief could be sought. The court believed and is not inclined to retract the view that discovery during negotiations could be handled much as discovery in litigation is handled, and that liberal requirements would prevail. While not welcoming the task, it

seems minimally intrusive under *C&NW*. It would be far less intrusive, for example, than post-impasse analysis which may require not only an appraisal of the right to information during bargaining but also an appraisal of the causal connection, if any, between the lack of information and the breakdown in negotiations. Ruling a discovery request also seems less intrusive than even a limited survey of negotiations to determine whether there has been good faith bargaining and what remedies should be supplied, if bad faith has resulted in an impasse and self-help. If *Pacific Fruit* is given broad application, consistent with its language, it would essentially take the courts completely out of the bargaining process, rather more in the spirit of Justice Brennan's dissent in *C&NW* than in accordance with the majority opinion. That may of course occur, given changes on the Court, but this court may not act in anticipation of an adoption of the Brennan dissent.

#### B. Statute of Limitations

Two courts of appeals have ruled that claims of bargaining violations under the Railway Labor Act become stale after six months. *Bhd. of Loco. Eng. v. A.T. & S.F. Tec. Rwy. Co.*, 768 F.2d 914, 919 (7th Cir. 1985); *IAM v. Aloha Airlines*, 790 F.2d 727, 735 (9th Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 107 S.Ct. 400 (1986). Because I find the reasoning unexceptionable and given the weight of the authorities, I accept this contention of TWA's.

Occurrences before September of 1985 may well have important probative values in this case. The focus, however, should be on TWA after acquisition of ownership and control by Carl Icahn. This was well within the six month period, so the limitation period announced by the appellate courts coincides with the period of greatest importance to the determination of the cause of impasse on March 6, 1986.

### C. The Test of "Unfair Labor Practice" Causation

IFFA acknowledges that it cannot obtain relief for full term strikers in this action if they are classified as "economic strikers," that is, persons who struck TWA because (1) they were unwilling to accept lawful wages and lawful working conditions imposed by TWA when TWA became free to implement its proposals on March 7, 1986, and (2) they remained on strike until May 17 simply because they continued to resist the terms being imposed by TWA. IFFA contends, however, that the strikers were or became "unfair labor practice strikers" who should receive relief by application of principles used by the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRA distinction was adopted by the Supreme Court more than thirty years ago. *Mastro Plastics Corp. v. NLRB*, 350 U.S. 270 (1956). For purposes of this case it will be assumed that NLRA principles should be applied to this question, although they have never been so applied in any previous litigation.

In *Mastro Plastics* the Court concluded that employees appropriately have and should be protected in the "freedom to strike against unfair labor practices" and should not be relegated to "filing charges under a procedure too slow to be effective." 350 U.S. at 286-7. In a dissent based on statutory language enacted in 1947, Justice Frankfurter acknowledged that under the original Wagner Act "the results would be clear" in that the employer violated the Act and thereby "unleashed the strike." 350 U.S. at 294. This causation language depicts the distinction between an economic strike and an unfair labor practice strike.

There has been a development in Labor Board doctrine, accepted by the courts, that an unfair labor practice need only be a "factor" in triggering or prolonging a strike, and need not be shown to have been the sole cause of such triggering or prolongation. See, e.g., *NLRB v. Columbia*

*Tribune Publishing Co.*, 495 F.2d 1384, 1392 (8th Cir. 1974). In *Columbia Tribune* there was held to be an unfair labor practice strike when an employer insisted on the right to use employees from outside the bargaining unit to do the work of covered employees, and then refused to discuss wages unless the union agreed to its proposal. The refusal to discuss basic terms of a collective bargaining agreement was an unfair labor practice and a causal connection with the strike was readily established.

While the *Columbia Tribune* analysis is accepted, in this circuit and others, claims of alleged unfair labor practice strikers have occasionally failed when there was an insufficiency of proof that the violation in question was in fact a contributing cause of the occurrence or prolongation of a strike. *NLRB v. Proler Intern. Corp.*, 635 F.2d 351, 353-4 (5th Cir. 1981); *Soule Glass and Glazing Co. v. NLRB*, 652 F.2d 1055, 1089 (1st Cir. 1981) ("impermissible speculation and surmise" in finding causation). In both cases the ALJ and the NLRB were reversed, despite the usual reliance on administrative expertise. This suggests that in Labor Board practice there are occasional classifications of strikers as unfair labor practice strikers as a punitive matter, to carry out the policies of the Act, even though strictly remedial measures would be unwarranted. While this court would not quarrel with any such NLRB policy (except in some cases where the punishment may far exceed the "crime") it seems clear to me that in the RLA context there should be no such uncontrollable punitive practice but rather firm insistence on proof of true causation (an "unleashing" effect) before what appears to be an economic strike should be reclassified as an unfair labor practice strike.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> I do not believe that violations of the RLA should go unpunished, assuming the court has authority to impose sanctions. Where information relevant to bargaining is sought and has been erroneously or willfully denied by an employer, but no causal connection

#### D. Particularized Issues

The unfair labor practices asserted at the beginning of this case were as follows:

1. TWA allegedly impeded bargaining by refusing to provide requested information that affected negotiations.
2. TWA allegedly dealt with a union other than the authorized representative of the flight attendants (the pilots' union, ALPA) and sought to establish flight attendant wages and related costs by agreement with that union.
3. TWA allegedly violated the Railway Labor Act by acting unilaterally in making pre-hire agreements with flight attendant trainees for the period before they became employed on the day the strike began.
4. TWA's negotiating posture, viewed in its entirety, allegedly showed bad faith, an intent not to reach an agreement, in that the employer indulged in such tactics as (a) retreating from its concessions, (b) refusing to discuss IFFA proposals, (c) demanding harsh, predictably unacceptable concessions by IFFA, and (d) insistence on concessions for sex-discriminatory reasons (that

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with a strike has been demonstrated beyond speculation and surmise, awarding to unions the expenses of obtaining judicial relief and perhaps punitive sums as sanctions may well be appropriate. Such a proposal may be deemed by some to be "freewheeling judicial interference in labor relations" condemned by the majority in *C&NW*. The Court did, however, delegate responsibility to the district courts to oversee "by appropriate judicial means" by enforcement of the requirements of the Act. Similarly, it is possible that monetary sanctions running to the union should be authorized, in addition to simply compensating any individuals improperly denied sick leave benefits (under the doctrine of *NLRB v. Great Dane Trailers, Inc.*, 388 U.S. 26 (1967)). It is noted, however, that the author of *C&NW*, Justice Harlan, in a dissenting opinion would have directed the employees to assert simple breach of contract claims—in this context, creating a "minor dispute" for disposition in arbitration.

is, that flight attendants, as contrasted with machinists, were generally not "breadwinners" and had less need for the money).<sup>12</sup>

Additional evidence of bad faith and illegality subsequent to the beginning of the strike is offered for determination of motive and also to prove prolongation of the strike by unfair labor practices. This includes such things as (a) altering adversely work rules that were never in negotiation on the unsound theory that the contract had fully terminated, (b) further stiffening of demands, (c) obstructing union representatives' attempts to perform normal union duties, and (d) an abortive pass at interference in the reelection of the union president. Most of the events referred to occurred after the strike ended, and proof on the last two points is too petty for elaboration.

Still another belated contention is that TWA unlawfully bargained to impasse on a nonmandatory subject of bargaining; i.e., the seniority rights of former flight attendants later serving in supervisory positions who are thereafter demoted back to bargaining unit work.

Before reviewing the dispositive legal issues, a general comment on the credibility of the witnesses may be appropriate. Although ruling against IFFA, I find little to fault in the quality of the live testimony. The three principal witnesses, members of the IFFA bargaining committee, were knowledgeable about the intricacies of airline operation as it relates to the work of flight attendants, and seemed generally credible and candid. They are, however, strong partisans and heavily motivated toward helping the full-term strikers win reinstatement. Memory

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<sup>12</sup> Claims of age discrimination have also been referred to in the evidence. These relate to alleged references by Carl Icahn to the attractiveness of his proposals to "19 year olds." Discrimination complaints are being processed administratively. In the absence of either pleading or pretrial arguments relying on the age discrimination contention, I consider it inappropriate to make a ruling.

tends to be self-serving in such cases. This doubtless flavors their testimony, but none of the principal witnesses was seriously impeached or discredited on any major item of testimony that occurs to me.

1. *Failure to Provide Information.* During the two year period of negotiations, many instances have been developed in the evidence presented over a thirty-one day trial in which TWA failed or refused to supply information or to answer IFFA's questions. It may be assumed for purposes of decision that many of these denials of information were unjustified, and that the court, on timely application, would have required answers. For example, the court might well have required TWA to provide available economic information about other groups in the workforce. TWA seems generally to have treated these requests as irrelevant to the IFFA negotiations, at the same time, however, that it occasionally referred to the sacrifices the pilots had agreed to make.

The most notable omissions of specific information were the apparent failure to advise IFFA that (a) TWA's Flex Cap proposal would, in addition to saving some 45 "heads", also result in a major reduction in overtime ("incentive hours") estimated to save nearly \$2 million annually, and (b) TWA's Bidding proposal would, in addition to saving some 120 "heads", also result in a reduction of incentive hours worth close to \$6 million annually. See Exh. 529.

In order to categorize a strike as an unfair labor practice strike rather than an economic strike it is necessary to find that the unfair labor practice in question probably *caused* or *prolonged* the strike. As previously stated, where the trier is forced to engage in "impermissible speculation and surmise," the Labor Board and the courts cannot impose the drastic remedies applicable to unfair labor practice strikes. *Soule Glass and Glazing Co. v. NLRB*, 652 F.2d 1055, 1089 (1st Cir. 1981); *NLRB v.*

*Columbia Tribune Publishing Co.*, 495 F.2d 1384, 1392 (8th Cir. 1974) (unfair labor practice strike characterization requires that the illegal conduct be at least "a factor leading to the strike"). In the present case it is not only speculative that the information sought would have prevented or shortened the strike, but it is entirely unlikely that more or better information would have materially helped avoid or shorten the strike. Lack of information did not trigger or unleash the strike.

TWA was seeking concessions valued at \$88 million, although Carl Icahn spoke of \$110 million (apparently including savings from the "Crew Complement" proposal that other TWA "numbers people" omitted as speculative, or too dependent on uncalculable circumstances). IFFA's public stance until well into the cooling-off period was that it would yield no more than \$30 milion (a 15% wage reduction or a lesser reduction combined with work rule concessions). Both parties ultimately spoke of a 17% wage reduction (some \$34 million) on the eve of the strike, but it is impossible to glean from the testimony any appreciable likelihood of an IFFA offer of major work rule concessions that would approach the total saving of \$88 million, or \$110 million, or even the smaller amounts for which TWA might have settled. A TWA official, Hoar, may have said at one point that IFFA was offering \$60 million, or he may have simply used the figure for argument, showing the parties were still far apart.<sup>13</sup> Tr. 4058. Even assuming the improbable \$60 million figure, it seems that a strike was very likely, given TWA's strong insistence in March 1986 and thereafter on considerably larger concessions and the flight attendants' very strong resistance to the work rules

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<sup>13</sup> The latter interpretation is much more likely, as there are no documents confirming such a cost analysis of IFFA's most favorable offer, and IFFA's evidence, after months of discovery, does not permit a meaningful estimate of a saving of \$20-25 million above the wage concession.

changes.<sup>14</sup> It seems entirely unlikely that IFFA's leadership could have persuaded the membership to ratify a contract on TWA's last demands or undisclosed minimum terms, even if the leaders had concluded they could not prevail by striking. With commendable candor, Frankovich acknowledged that she now agrees with this conclusion. Tr. 4514. The pre-strike publicity, designed to achieve solidarity, was in a sense counterproductive.

The major omission from information supplied by TWA was the \$6 million attributed to overtime savings if the TWA Bidding proposal were put into effect. If IFFA had had this figure, no change in negotiating stance was predictable. IFFA suspected that more than \$88 million was TWA's objective, and the Bidding proposal saving was not concealed, but was part of the total repeatedly demanded and rejected in bargaining.

My confident conclusion that information concealment (and claimed misinformation) did not cause or prolong the strike does not signify that the legal duty to supply information is a dead letter. On the contrary, the doors to the courthouse remain open (unless blocked by the *Pacific Fruit* doctrine), and a request for information

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<sup>14</sup> I recognize that the likely cost of a strike might well exceed the gap between the parties. This is a false comparison, however, as a triumph for TWA would save much more than the amount at stake for a single year. While I believe that Icahn's personal conduct on the eve of the strike and in a videotaped meeting with pickets at his home shows a purpose to achieve agreement, through urgent warnings and impassioned arguments, the evidence does not tend to show that fear of a strike would have caused him to make major reductions in his demands. (The unpublicized personal attempt to persuade the pickets was an extraordinary performance, inconsistent with the union's theory that Icahn was engaged in a bad faith effort to ambush and destroy. Testimony about an in-flight discussion with flight attendants before the strike and an extended conversation with flight attendant Weingarten after the strike also demonstrates a very unusual personal attempt by the major owner of the airline to persuade, albeit by comments that the flight attendants found offensive and tactless.)

may be presented to the court as a discovery request. Simply collecting a series of unanswered questions over a two-year period of negotiations will not suffice to establish the existence of an unfair labor practice strike. Causation is lacking in this case.

2. *ALPA Agreement.* The ALPA agreement that Icahn would use his best efforts to obtain a 20-22% concession by IFFA (Exh. 503 at 31) is not a fair subject of complaint. It was not a situation where TWA dealt with an unauthorized claimant to bargaining status. ALPA does not claim to represent the flight attendants but was cast in the role of an adversary seeking "non-discrimination." While it might be argued that the agreement was against public policy, in that it tended to create rigidity in TWA's bargaining stance, it was not itself a rigid agreement. Much that occurred on both sides helped create rigidity. When Icahn obtained control of TWA he asked IFFA for a total concession of more than 22%, so the question became moot.

3. *Training Program.* In preparation for the strike, TWA trained prospective strike breakers. The trainees were also available to replace voluntary retirees, if a buy-out proposal had been accepted. The trainees were not part of the flight attendant work group, and IFFA was not authorized to represent them until after the strike began and after TWA had obtained the right to use self-help. The training program does not seem to be an unfair labor practice. Negotiating parties must make some strike preparations before a strike is certain. IFFA took a strike authorization vote to strengthen the hand of its negotiators, even though such a vote may harden a party's position and make a strike more likely. Arguably contrary dicta or a related trainee issue in *ALPA v. United Air Lines, Inc.*, 614 F.Supp. 1020, 1043 (N.D. Ill. 1985), has been superseded by an appellate decision giving legal approval to the training program in preparation for a strike. *ALPA v. United Air Lines, Inc.*, 802

F.2d 886, 916-7 (7th Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 107 S.Ct. 1605 (1987).

4. *Bargaining Tactics Generally.* A retreat in October and December 1985, from more favorable offers in May of 1985 is readily explicable, and does not tend to show a picador tactic simply designed to enrage the union and bring confrontation rather than agreement. Obvious differences existed between May and December. Most significantly, TWA was under new ownership which was entitled to use a fresh and more radical approach to bargaining. The May stance was at a time when TWA was poised to obtain profitable summer traffic and could ill afford an interruption in service. By December, TWA's financial situation had darkened, supporting more drastic demands. Icahn's cash offer for minority stock was sharply reduced at about the same time. Exh. LLLL, p. 8. Also very significantly, TWA had made peace with ALPA and the IAM (showing that the Icahn-controlled airline was by no means hostile to reaching agreements with unions), leaving IFFA in a poor bargaining position. It had become the only union that might be called on for further sacrifice. TWA believed, accurately, that IFFA alone could not ground the airline.<sup>15</sup> Changed conditions justify a hardening of bargaining posture. *Soule Glass and Glazing Co. v. NLRB, supra*, 652 F.2d at 1103-4; *Omaha Typographical Union v. NLRB*, 545 F.2d 1138, 1143 (8th Cir. 1976). Cf. *Rockingham Machine-Lunex Co.*, 255 N.L.R.B. 89, 107, affirmed, 665 F.2d 303, 305 (8th Cir. 1981), cert. denied, 457 U.S. 1107 (1982), where retraction of prior agreements was inexplicable, unless the company had given inadequate authority to its

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<sup>15</sup> In companion litigation, I sensed as early as March 18, 1986, some ten days after the strike began, that IFFA was in "serious or desperate need of allies." *TWA v. IAM*, 629 F.Supp. 1554, 1558 (W. D. Mo. 1986). Icahn's skepticism about how seriously IFFA could damage airline operations was first expressed in hard personal bargaining on August 2, 1985. Tr. 3948.

bargaining agent or the company was merely seeking to waste time.

Both sides on occasion engaged in posturing and immediate rejection of contentions by the other side, without discussion. The record of negotiations does not reflect well on the quality of negotiations. Both sides should have attempted to "reason together" more than they did. It is well settled, however, that movement toward the position of the other side is not a requirement of good faith bargaining. *NLRB v. American National Ins. Co.*, 343 U.S. 395, 404 (1952); *Wal-Lite Div. of U.S. Gypsum Co. v. NLRB*, 484 F.2d 108, 111 (8th Cir. 1973). If the rule were otherwise, insincerity would be mandated by law, forcing parties to take positions and make first-offer assertions they do not really mean. While this may be common practice, by lawyers in litigation and otherwise, it is not the only permissible technique in collective bargaining.

Mere insistence on demands that seem extremely harsh to the other side and that a neutral party may consider "hard" is not a violation of bargaining duties. *Omaha Typographical Union, supra*, 545 F.2d at 1142. An employer may insist on positions consistent with its ability to survive a strike and its asserted needs, even if the union may consider the proposals greedy. *Wal-Lite, supra*, 484 F.2d at 111. As the Supreme Court acknowledged, speaking through Justice Black, the labor laws allow economic strength ultimately to control the establishment of contract terms, regardless of which side may have better reasons for its position. *H.K. Porter Co., Inc. v. NLRB*, 397 U.S. 99, 109 (1970). The demands made by TWA were generally part of a longstanding pre-Icahn "wish list," apparently honestly advanced to meet perceived needs of TWA. Almost all of them were put into effect during the self-help period, and TWA's work rules changes became even more stringent during the strike, when TWA could reasonably believe, on the

advice of counsel, that all contract restrictions had terminated.

Nothing done by TWA during the strike, from March 7 through May 17, can be said to have prolonged the strike. TWA was under no legal duty to move toward rather than away from IFFA's position, particularly as it became clearer day by day that IFFA's economic strength was fading. An earlier settlement might well have been possible if TWA had yielded to sentiments of business-as-usual or had sympathized more with its long-time employees. A simple increase in polite discussion, though much to be desired, would not have broken the deadlock. IFFA had caused many millions of dollars of damage to TWA, and had vigorously "roasted" the new ownership. It is not a function of the court to insist that an employer cheerfully accept strike losses or show generosity in victory. A lawsuit should protect a party from the proven results of illegal conduct but does not serve as a safety net insuring against all forms of grievous injury.

The evidence relating to the period after IFFA called off its strike demonstrates a great deal of residual bitterness and possibly a gesture toward illegal interference in union affairs but sheds no material light on the questions now before the court. Although IFFA's contentions have been given a careful appraisal, I cannot conclude from the evidence presented that TWA's bargaining was in bad faith, under general principles articulated in this circuit some twenty years ago. *NLRB v. Arkansas Rice Growers Coop. Ass'n.*, *supra*, 400 F.2d 565, 571-2 (8th Cir. 1968); *NLRB v. Alva Allen Ind., Inc.*, 369 F.2d 310, 318-9 (8th Cir. 1966).

5. "*Predictably Unacceptable*" Demands. IFFA argues that after the Icahn takeover of TWA the airline made, and insisted upon, demands that were predictably unacceptable to IFFA and its members. I consider this

quite likely. Given the response to the membership questionnaire, the overwhelming strike vote, and the public relations campaign waged by IFFA with its members, it seems quite probable that the parties were headed toward an impasse unless TWA were to reduce its demands to the 20% range anticipated by Frankovich. Even though the proposal ultimately made by Icahn was below 20% in direct out-of-pocket demands, the total package sought was so unpopular with the flight attendants that the odds were heavily against acceptance.

IFFA contends that these factual conclusions brand TWA as a violator of legally imposed bargaining duties. While there are no such implications in Railway Labor Act cases, it is not difficult to find Labor Board opinions and an occasional court opinion seeming to condemn "predictably unacceptable" demands. The Labor Board's use of the concept has itself been criticized in a case denying enforcement to an order of the Board. *Seattle-First National Bank v. NLRB*, 638 F.2d 1221, 1226-7 (9th Cir. 1981). The court said, "In finding a violation of the obligation to bargain in good faith exclusively on contract proposals the Board is in effect doing that which it is prohibited from doing—sitting in judgment upon the substantive terms of a proposed collective bargaining agreement." *Id.* n.7. It is "permissible for a party to engage in 'hard bargaining,' utilizing its economic power to its advantage to retain as many rights as possible" subject only to necessity that there be a subjective "desire to reach ultimate agreement." *Id.* n.9. The *Wal-Lite* decision in the Eighth Circuit is another example of a case refusing to treat predictable unacceptability as a test of legality of proposals. 484 F.2d at 110.

On occasion, "egregious employer behavior," taken in context, may convince a trier of fact that the employer was spoiling for a fight rather than sincerely seeking satisfaction of its demands. *Soule Glass and Glazing Co.*

v. NLRB, 652 F.2d 1055, 1104 (1st Cir. 1981). An "egregeiously deficient and one-sided 'proposed contract'" may have some evidentiary value in appraising the intent of a party.<sup>16</sup> *Id.* But a neutral party's distaste for the proposed terms cannot become a factor that has a life of its own. "Where the union cannot by the use of substantial economic weapons protected by the Act convince the employer to agree to terms acceptable to its members, the Board may not intervene to 'equalize or neutralize pressures in the name of lack of good faith.'" *Id.* See also, e.g., *Pease Co. v. NLRB*, 666 F.2d 1044 (6th Cir. 1981), cert. denied, 456 U.S. 974 (1982).

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<sup>16</sup> A good example of this phenomenon appears in *NLRB v. A-1 King Size Sandwiches, Inc.*, 732 F.2d 872 (11th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 1035 (1984). Typically a proposal that tends to show there is no genuine desire to reach agreement reflects anti-union bias such as a proposal to "remain in total control over wages" or to demean the union function in a bizarre management rights clause. *Id.* at 875. See also *NLRB v. Wright Motors, Inc.*, 603 F.2d 604 (7th Cir. 1979), for proposals demeaning the union's role. One can search far in the Labor Act cases to try to find decisions turning on purely economic demands deemed to be excessive. In the present case, TWA initially proposed to stop paying union representatives and stop supplying union offices on its premises; its final proposal would continue the first subsidy but not the latter. While both issues were sensitive ones to IFFA negotiators, the proposals for neutralizing TWA's role could hardly be treated as demeaning, or hostile to the union, particularly where other airlines do not provide flight attendant union offies at airports. Tr. 5169-70. IFFA's response that IAM retained an office at airports does not show that the Icahn administration will not seek to recapture IAM's office as soon as possible, or that there is a definite parallel between the convenience to the two groups of having offices at the airports. Also lacking proof of a parallel situation is IFFA's contention that there was more favorable treatment of nonunion employees in the reductions made in late 1985. As IFFA argued in another context, before comparisons are convincing one must know whether the nonunion employees made comparable gains from 1978 onward. Whether their wages were higher than the market would also be pertinent. Invidious discrimination against union members in bargaining has not been established.

In any event, the appropriate judicial evaluation of proposed contract terms is not measured by how far the NLRB has been shown to penetrate into the central issues of bargaining. When Congress created the Labor Board, it established a body that it expected to develop considerable expertise in labor relations. Senate confirmation of the members of the Board tends to give assurance as to expertise and an opportunity to appraise biases or leanings of nominees. Quite different expectations apply to the hundreds of district judges nominated and then confirmed by the Senate. Labor relations expertise is rarely expected and the confirmation process seldom touches that subject. Even if it can be inferred that the Congress that created the Labor Board might have anticipated some indirect review by the Board of the substantive bargaining positions of unions and employers, it is inconceivable that the framers of the Railway Labor Act had such anticipations for the district judges.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> I am mindful that Justice Stone wrote, fifty years ago, that judges may be expected to have some capacity to decide whether Railway Labor Act negotiators have made a "reasonable effort to compose differences" because questions about "whether action taken or omitted is in good faith or reasonable are everyday subjects of inquiry by courts in framing and enforcing their decrees." *Virginian Rwy. Co. v. System Federation*, 300 U.S. 515, 548, 550 (1937). If one is to equate reasonableness in contracting in all contexts, and view with suspicion what would be considered egregious or unconscionable as a generalized proposition, everyone knows that economic values fluctuate widely from time to time. A sharp and extensive gain or drop in interest rates, stock market prices, the value of farm land and other property, and even lawsuits is familiar. One reads that a \$10 billion judgment, affirmed by a state Supreme Court, has been negotiated down to \$3 billion. Perhaps the Congressional mandate that the service of employees shall not be considered a commodity (15 U.S.C. § 17) should be applied here, and perhaps some judges would opine that the cost of labor should not fluctuate drastically from year to year. Some might even agree with IFFA's counsel that adjustments upward should be distinguished from adjustments downward, because internal union politics make the latter especially difficult. I do not

For present purposes I accept as a persuasive and authoritative ruling the decision of Chief Judge Peckham in *Trans Intl. Airlines v. Teamsters*, 96 LRRM 2763 (N.D. Cal. 1977), affirmed in an opinion by then-Judge Kennedy, 650 F.2d 949 (9th Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1110 (1981). The union was there making demands that the airline contended would impose costs equal to a tripling of the flight attendant payroll. The union disputed the claim that there would be a cost increase estimated to be 294%, but Chief Judge Peckham found it simply "unnecessary to the resolution [of the good faith bargaining issue] to determine the actual figures. TIA is effectively asking the court to hold that the sheer size of the Teamsters' economic demands, and the distance between the parties after a long period of negotiations, amounts to a lack of reasonable effort by the union to reach an agreement." 96 LRRM at 2765. The district court concluded it was forbidden by "the strong federal labor policy against governmental interference with the substantive terms of collective-bargaining agreements" from pursuing the matter further. Judge Kennedy, on appeal, quoted the pertinent language. 650 F.2d at 958. While observing that it was not holding "that a union's insistence on proposals of the kind involved here could never be the basis for a finding that a union did not comply with its [bargaining] obligations," the appellate court concluded that the district court's finding is not clearly erroneous. *Id.* at 958-9.

If a contention that a union is insisting on a 294% increase in costs may be accepted for purposes of ruling, and a decision may summarily be made that such bargaining would not be unlawful, then even if it be assumed that TWA was bargaining for a decrease in cost of some 32%, including a 17% decrease in wages, that would

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believe, however, and the precedents do not show, that the Railway Labor Act was designed to encourage judicially-created wage guidelines.

not connote illegality in bargaining, regardless of poor prospects that the other party will accept the proposal. See also *REA Express*, *supra*, where bargaining likely to result in bankruptcy was not deemed illegally harsh.

In the present case, it seems unlikely there would have been a claim of illegally unreasonable proposals if the wage cut had been separated from the work rules proposal, and the two issues had been presented on separate occasions, perhaps on the amendment date of a one year contract. Since the proposals were different in nature, and only one dealt with take-home pay, it should not be deemed to be beyond the range of reasonableness to insist on dealing with the entire perceived problem at once, particularly with a buy-out proposal for flight attendants who might be unwilling to work under the new conditions. In any event, if *TIA* is sound, as I believe it to be, and an aggressive union may lawfully bargain for a tripling of expenses for a flight attendant group believed to be working in substandard conditions, the converse should be true, and an aggressive employer should be able to lawfully bargain for a 50% reduction in total expense of a group believed to be considerably overpaid and much less productive than is feasible.<sup>18</sup>

IFFA urges, however, that the court consider the totality of the circumstances. As previously concluded, the troubles at the bargaining table and other complaints do not match or tend to outweigh the unusually strong evidence that TWA, under Icahn's leadership, has a high

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<sup>18</sup> It is of interest (as a tacit admission) that Frankovich gave no assurances to the flight attendants in advance of the strike that TWA's offensive package of demands would result in their being treated as unfair labor practice strikers, entitled to displace new hires after a strike. Exh. 512. The 16 page outline contains no express concession that they would be economic strikers, but it offers no hope of other treatment. Contrast the optimistic legal assertion that junior crossovers would be subject to bumping by strikers having seniority, a contention of some novelty and daring that may be in the process of fulfillment.

propensity toward making collective bargaining agreements in general (with ALPA and IAM) and was "passionately" eager to make such an agreement with IFFA on the eve of the strike. Short of making his proposals more palatable (which cannot be insisted upon by the courts) there was little more that Icahn could have done to demonstrate desire for a contract.

6. *Alleged Sex Discrimination in Negotiating Demands.* One of the most challenging issues presented in this case is whether TWA, through Carl Icahn, made concession demands that were so tainted with sex stereotyping that IFFA's resistance to the point of striking was specially privileged and guaranteed against loss, in order that a discriminatory sex-based differential not be imposed.

TWA contends the court has no jurisdiction over this claim in this case. Sex discrimination charges are being processed by the EEOC and state agencies, and at least one separate lawsuit has been filed. The court's initial ruling on March 5, 1986, suggested that exhaustion of administrative remedies might be needed. I was then thinking more of a claim of sex discrimination by persons actually employed under the new wage system rather than a claim of discrimination as an element in the claim of bad faith bargaining. Further consideration has been given to the latter issue.

It has been held that a refusal by an employer to bargain in good faith over claims of racially discriminatory practices can violate the National Labor Relations Act, and a strike caused by such a refusal can be classified as an unfair labor practice strike. *United Packinghouse, Food & Allied Workers Int. Union v. NLRB*, 416 F.2d 1126, 1133 (D.C. Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 396 U.S. 903 (1969). Footnote 11 in that case rejects the notion that exclusive primary jurisdiction lies with the EEOC. In a later Labor Board case involving claims of sex discrimina-

tion, it was contended by the union that management was insistent on retaining the right to discriminate against women by paying men an incentive to attract and retain them as employees. The majority of the Labor Board concluded there had been no employer refusal to bargain when the union representative "walked out of the initial bargaining session when told the (employer) was firm about retaining" the right to continue the practice. *Jubilee Mfg. Co. and United Steelworkers of America*, 202 N.L.R.B. 272, 274 (1973); affirmed without opinion, 504 F.2d 271 (D.C. Cir. 1974). Member Fanning concurred on the merits, concluding the evidence of sex discrimination was inadequate. Member Jenkins dissented, however, on the merits, concluding that proof that the incentive was used because "men are generally 'bread-winners'" showed an unlawful motivation and thus bad faith bargaining.

While there is something to be said for TWA's view that primary jurisdiction lies with the EEOC, I conclude that I do have jurisdiction to examine the claim as an element in an assertion of bad faith bargaining.

It seems reasonably clear that, beginning with its proposals in December 1985, the TWA negotiators were acting under the direction of the incoming owner, Carl Icahn. Therefore, bargaining statements made by Icahn in August 1985 may well reflect the basis of TWA's position from December through the strike. TWA's contention that Icahn did not speak for it in August 1985 is of course sound, and could not have resulted in Railway Labor Act violations prior to Icahn's achievement of control, but the statements tend to disclose his thinking after he became TWA's owner. His initial demand in June for parity of sacrifice by ALPA, IAM and IFFA may also be considered.

Critical discussions occurred between Icahn and Frankovich in August 1985. According to her testimony, she expressed willingness to yield 15 or 17% in wages, some-

what more than the IAM did in its negotiations with Icahn, but Icahn then insisted on concessions of 20-22% of total flight attendant costs. When Frankovich protested the substantial differential, Icahn used various arguments set forth on pages 14-5 of this opinion. He said the market was different for flight attendants and mechanics.<sup>19</sup> Tr. 3944. He said a "girl" (of indeterminate age) outside his window could be a flight attendant and would accept a \$12,000 annual wage. Tr. 3945. IFFA seems to have agreed with the evaluation of beginning flight attendants' work, as it offered essentially the same yearly wage in its "B scale" contract proposal. Exh. 49, p. 3. Icahn said mechanics were different; among other things they were "breadwinners." IFFA workers in many instances simply provided "second incomes." Tr. 3947. He repeatedly emphasized, before and during the strike, that large numbers of unskilled young people were willing and able to become flight attendants.

The "breadwinner" reference was particularly resented and has been cited repeatedly to show an intent to discriminate against women. If truly a basis of decision, IFFA would doubtless be right. "Breadwinner" stereotypes have been outlawed as grounds for governmental action since *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 411 U.S. 677, 681 (1973). If a private employer were to establish a wage scale favoring men because of such a theory, it would doubtless violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. E.g., *Hall v. Ledex, Inc.*, 669 F.2d 397, 399 (6th Cir. 1982). The result in *Hall* is not obviously sound, however, as the male employee who received favorable wages

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<sup>19</sup> This was repeatedly asserted, and I believe it must have been the essential reason for the differential, in addition to the sheer economic power of the IAM to enforce its demands in a confrontation. As the end of the strike, some nine months after the August 2 conversation, Icahn was still repeating the theme that flight attendants were not "professionals" (Tr. 5477), an awkward way of saying again that unskilled persons could be employed for the job.

actually did have greater family needs than the disfavored woman who succeeded him. Presumably the court had heard no evidence that the employer made a general practice of paying its employees in accordance with the size of their families. The argument was seen as a poor excuse for what was otherwise inexplicable, and the situation was therefore interpreted as an instance of sex discrimination. In the present case I also believe it is implausible to suppose that TWA actually used a test of comparative need (as perceived by stereotype) in establishing wages, but unlike the *Hall* situation there are likely innocent alternatives to sexist wage determination.

A "breadwinner" remark, as in *Hall*, is occasionally treated as an earmark of sexist bias. *Grove v. Frostburg Nat. Bank*, 549 F.Supp. 922, 941 n.15 (D. Md. 1982). In other cases, a "breadwinner" comment may be taken as a mere rationalization, an unsophisticated and crude but sometimes well-meaning debating point attempting to explain disparate wages. *EEOC v. Affiliated Foods, Inc.*, 34 FEP Cas. 943, 948 (W. D. Mo. 1984); *Briggs v. City of Madison*, 536 F.Supp. 435, 448-9 (W. D. Wis. 1982). In at least one recent case, a breadwinner theory of the male role has been accepted as a sociologically valid theory that was by-and-large true in our society, thus offering a "logical explanation" of statistics showing a pattern of promotions favoring males (who tend to acquire more uninterrupted seniority). *Gillespie v. Bd. of Ed. of North Little Rock*, 528 F.Supp. 433, 437 (E. D. Ark. 1981), aff'd., 692 F.2d 529 (8th Cir. 1982). Cf. *Haskins v. Sec. of HHS*, 35 FEP Cas. 256 (W. D. Mo. 1984) (sustaining claim that a policy excluding credit for interrupted seniority has a tendency to discriminate against women).

My interpretation of the exchange between Mr. Icahn and Ms. Frankovich is much like the interpretation I gave the term in the *Affiliated Foods* case. I consider it a mere rationalization for action taken on other grounds. Icahn was engaged in debating, and apparently became

angry or lacked the sophistication to realize he was likely to antagonize rather than convince Frankovich by the breadwinner reference. The real reasons for the IAM differential, in normal economic terms, must have been (1) the ability of IAM to do greater damage to TWA in a strike than IFFA could (a fact conceded by union bargaining representative Hoffman—Tr. 3569),<sup>20</sup> and (2) the perception that persons in the mechanics' bargaining unit are generally more skilled, at least initially, than would be expected of a newly hired flight attendant. Tr. 3946. The available supply being deemed somewhat smaller for mechanics, they succeed in commanding better compensation.<sup>21</sup> In any event, IFFA has not attempted to prove a comparable worth case.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>20</sup> While I do not rely on such testimony in this case for several reasons, I have heard testimony under oath that the IAM was capable of crippling the airline. *TWA v. IAM*, 629 F.Supp. 1554, 1557-8 (W. D. Mo. 1986).

<sup>21</sup> Icahn's perception that \$12,000 offers for a "glamorous job" (Tr. 3945) would likely attract large numbers of young persons wanting "to see the world," as the Navy used to say, and that young women would predominate, was realistic rather than sexist. Women comprise about 85% of the flight attendant workforce.

<sup>22</sup> There is one indication that the thrust of IFFA's claims is directed less toward mechanics in general than toward an alleged past practice of TWA to overpay "janitors." Tr. 3947. There is an indication that as of June 1984 minimum pay for IAM janitors was \$12.37 per hour, apparently exceeding \$25,000 per year (Exh. 537), approximately twice the wage scale that IFFA itself proposed for new flight attendants. It is not shown what work "janitors" do, or whether they are exclusively or predominantly a male group. Assuming arguendo that the group referred to is largely male (as Icahn seems to have assumed) and is overpaid by TWA, this seems unlikely to be attributable to their sex. Rather, the linkage to a union with apparent clout at TWA seems to be the most rational explanation from the present record. Absent another inference reasonably drawn from the evidence, a presumption of lawful conduct may be used. *NLRB v. Alva Allen Ind.*, *supra*, 369 F.2d at 319. See also *Powell v. Mo. State Hwy. and Transp. Dept.*, 822 F.2d 798 (8th Cir. 1987), accepting a bench trial con-

IFFA's theory, that the breadwinner reference reveals Icahn's motivation, would signify that he is a devotee of the Marxist or utopian distribution system, "to each according to his needs." While even normally doctrinaire capitalists may be influenced by such motivations occasionally in setting wages for persons in their immediate entourage, it is entirely implausible that a hard-boiled "corporate raider" (to use the label of the Court of Appeals) would subscribe to that method of setting wages for middle income personnel. When Ichan ultimately acknowledged that some flight attendants really did need the old wage-rates, he said they must "accept the realities here." Tr. 4023. That statement reflects probable thought processes, and I believe it to be the key to this controversy. There has been no persuasive showing that sex stereotyping governed or influenced Icahn's economic demands—only his rationalizations.

7. *TWA's Seniority Proposal.* IFFA's final contention is that TWA insisted on a nonmandatory subject of bargaining and that the resulting impasse was thus caused by an unfair labor practice. The subject in question relates to the seniority of former flight attendants who may be promoted to supervisory positions and who later seek to resume their status as flight attendants.

Both parties to negotiations sought to change the provision in the most recent contract (Red Book), under which seniority accrues for one year after a promotion and then is retained but without enhancement. Article 10(C), pp. 73-4. IFFA sought to terminate the seniority rights of supervisors who had been promoted from the ranks (Exh. 123, p. 16, Exh. 143); TWA sought to have

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clusion that an employee's work record and not proven expressions of supervisory bias show the most probable cause of a discharge. Resolution of such questions by court or jury necessarily turns on a common sense appraisal, based on observations of human nature and conduct.

seniority accrue past the one year period. Exh. 6, p. 5. TWA's motivation was to increase the attractiveness of supervisory positions by giving greater job security to former flight attendants who became supervisors.

While positions on a union's seniority list may generally be a nonmandatory subject of bargaining, both under the RLA and the NLRA, once an agreement has been made it would seem to be a duty of both parties to consider proposed amendments. IFFA would hardly take the position that TWA could legally refuse to discuss IFFA's proposed deletion of the provision. An Icahn statement, to which IFFA takes exception, fairly relates to his resistance to IFFA's demand and not a adamant insistence on TWA's proposal. Exh. 297. In any event, while the parties were both interested in the subject and it may have been the topic of strong language, nothing convinces me that it had anything to do with the impasse, or that an impasse would have resulted if all else had been agreed. There is, in addition, a credible denial of such an intent. Icahn Depo. 451, 453-5.

### CONCLUSION

It is doubtful that Icahn adequately appreciated the cost of his proposals in human terms. Perhaps, as the IFFA witnesses suggest, he did not greatly care. He may well have seriously underestimated TWA's need for the skills of flight attendants with many years of experience. No misjudgment that may be assumed for purposes of this ruling would, however, violate the Railway Labor Act. Greedy employers, like greedy unions, have a legal right to try their strength, and to enforce demands by self-help, after release from supervised negotiation.

I conclude that the "breadwinner" statement was a foolish and offensive rationalization, having no probable relationship with Icahn's true rational for demanding disproportionate concessions from IFFA. I am not per-

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suaded by a preponderance of the evidence before me that the predominate sex of IFFA's work force was a cause of its present misfortune.

/s/ Howard F. Sachs  
HOWARD F. SACHS  
United States District Judge

DATED: March 9, 1988.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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Docket Number 86-6030-CV-Sj-6

HOWARD F. SACHS  
U.S. District Judge

THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

v.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC., *et al.*

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JUDGMENT

- Jury Verdict. This action came before the Court and jury with the judicial officer named above presiding. The issues have been tried and the jury has rendered its verdict.
- Decision by Court. This action came to trial or hearing before the Court with the judge named above presiding. The issues have been tried and a decision has been rendered.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED

IFFA's prayer for a mandatory injunction reinstating all full-term flight attendant strikers is DENIED. TWA's motion to dismiss the injunction claim at the conclusion of plaintiff's evidence is GRANTED.

Entered On Mar 9. 1988

R. F. CONNOR  
Clerk

Date 3/8/88

R. RILEY  
Deputy Clerk

**APPENDIX D****TEXT OF STATUTES INVOLVED****RAILWAY LABOR ACT****45 U.S.C. § 152. General duties****First. Duty of carriers and employees to settle disputes**

It shall be the duty of all carriers, their officers, agents, and employees to exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions, and to settle all disputes, whether arising out of the application of such agreements or otherwise, in order to avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier growing out of any dispute between the carrier and the employees thereof.

\* \* \* \*

**Seventh. Change in pay, rules, or working conditions contrary to agreement or to section 156 forbidden.**

No carrier, its officers or agents shall change the rates of pay, rules, or working conditions of its employees, as a class as embodied in agreements except in the manner prescribed in such agreements or in section 156 of this title.

\* \* \* \*

**Ninth. Disputes as to identity of representatives; designation by Mediation Board; secret elections**

If any dispute shall arise among a carrier's employees as to who are the representatives of such employees designated and authorized in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, it shall be the duty of the Mediation Board, upon request of either party to the dispute, to investigate such dispute and to certify to both parties, in writing, within thirty days after the receipt of the in-

cation of its services, the name or names of the individuals or organizations that have been designated and authorized to represent the employees involved in the dispute, and certify the same to the carrier. Upon receipt of such certification the carrier shall treat with the representative so certified as the representative of the craft or class for the purposes of this chapter. In such an investigation, the Mediation Board shall be authorized to take a secret ballot of the employees involved, or to utilize any other appropriate method of ascertaining the names of their duly designated and authorized representatives in such manner as shall insure the choice of representatives by the employees without interference, influence, or coercion exercised by the carrier. In the conduct of any election for the purposes herein indicated the Board shall designate who may participate in the election and establish the rules to govern the election, or may appoint a committee of three neutral persons who after hearing shall within ten days designate the employees who may participate in the election. The Board shall have access to and have power to make copies of the books and records of the carriers to obtain and utilize such information as may be deemed necessary by it to carry out the purposes and provisions of this paragraph.

\* \* - \*

#### § 181. Application of subchapter I to carriers by air

All of the provisions of subchapter I of this chapter, except section 153 of this title, are extended to and shall cover every common carrier by air engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and every carrier by air transporting mail for or under contract with the United States Government, and every air pilot or other person who performs any work as an employee or subordinate official of such carrier or carriers, subject to its or their continuing authority to supervise and direct the manner of rendition of his service.

\* \* - \*

§ 182. Duties, penalties, benefits, and privileges of sub-chapter I applicable

The duties, requirements, penalties, benefits, and privileges prescribed and established by the provisions of sub-chapter I of this chapter, except section 153 of this title, shall apply to said carriers by air and their employees in the same manner and to the same extent as though such carriers and their employees were specifically included within the definition of "carrier" and "employee", respectively, in section 151 of this title.

\* \* \* \*

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2. Unlawful employment practices

Employer practices

(a) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer—

(1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or

(2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

\* \* \* \*

## NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

## 29 U.S.C. § 151. Findings and declaration of policy

The denial by some employers of the right of employees to organize and the refusal by some employers to accept the procedure of collective bargaining lead to strikes and other forms of industrial strife or unrest, which have the intent or the necessary effect of burdening or obstructing commerce by (a) impairing the efficiency, safety, or operation of the instrumentalities of commerce; (b) occurring in the current of commerce; (c) materially affecting, restraining, or controlling the flow of raw materials or manufactured or processed goods from or into the channels of commerce, or the prices of such materials or goods in commerce; or (d) causing diminution of employment and wages in such volume as substantially to impair or disrupt the market for goods flowing from or into the channels of commerce.

The inequality of bargaining power between employees who do not possess full freedom of association or actual liberty of contract, and employers who are organized in the corporate or other forms of ownership association substantially burdens and affects the flow of commerce, and tends to aggravate recurrent business depressions, by depressing wage rates and the purchasing power of wage earners in industry and by preventing the stabilization of competitive wage rates and working conditions within and between industries.

Experience has proved that protection by law of the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively safeguards commerce from injury, impairment, or interruption, and promotes the flow of commerce by removing certain recognized sources of industrial strife and unrest, by encouraging practices fundamental to the friendly adjustment of industrial disputes arising out of differences as to wages, hours, or other working conditions, and by

restoring equality of bargaining power between employers and employees.

Experience has further demonstrated that certain practices by some labor organizations, their officers, and members have the intent or the necessary effect of burdening or obstructing commerce by preventing the free flow of goods in such commerce through strikes and other forms of industrial unrest or through concerted activities which impair the interest of the public in the free flow of such commerce. The elimination of such practices is a necessary condition to the assurance of the rights herein guaranteed.

It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstruction to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

\* \* \* \*

#### § 158. Unfair labor practices

(a) It shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer—

(1) to interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in section 157 of this title;

\* \* \* \*

(5) to refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of his employees, subject to the provisions of section 159(a) of this title.

\* \* \* \*

(d) For the purposes of this section, to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual obligation of the employer and the representative of the employees to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party, but such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession: *Provided*, That where there is in effect a collective-bargaining contract covering employees in an industry affecting commerce, the duty to bargain collectively shall also mean that no party to such contract shall terminate or modify such contract, unless the party desiring such termination or modification—

- (1) serves a written notice upon the other party to the contract of the proposed termination or modification sixty days prior to the expiration date thereof, or in the event such contract contains no expiration date, sixty days prior to the time it is proposed to make such termination or modification;
- (2) offers to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new contract or a contract containing the proposed modifications;
- (3) notifies the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service within thirty days after such notice of the existence of a dispute, and simultaneously therewith notifies any State or Territorial agency established to mediate and conciliate disputes within the State or Territory where the dispute occurred, provided no agreement has been reached by that time; and
- (4) continues in full force and effect, without resorting to strike or lock-out, all the terms and conditions of the existing contract for a period of sixty

days after such notice is given or until the expiration date of such contract, whichever occurs later:

The duties imposed upon employers, employees, and labor organizations by paragraphs (2)-(4) of this subsection shall become inapplicable upon an intervening certification of the Board, under which the labor organization or individual, which is a party to the contract, has been superseded as or ceased to be the representative of the employees subject to the provisions of section 159(a) of this title, and the duties so imposed shall not be construed as requiring either party to discuss or agree to any modification of the terms and conditions contained in a contract for a fixed period, if such modification is to become effective before such terms and conditions can be reopened under the provisions of the contract. Any employee who engages in a strike within the sixty-day period specified in this subsection shall lose his status as an employee of the employer engaged in the particular labor dispute, for the purposes of sections 158 to 160 of this title, but such loss of status for such employee shall terminate if and when he is reemployed by such employer.

\* \* \* \*

#### LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT

29 U.S.C. § 141. Short title; Congressional declaration of purpose and policy

(a) This chapter may be cited as the "Labor Management Relations Act, 1947".

(b) Industrial strife which interferes with the normal flow of commerce and with the full production of articles and commodities for commerce, can be avoided or substantially minimized if employers, employees, and labor organizations each recognize under law one another's legitimate rights in their relations with each other, and above all recognize under law that neither party has any

right in its relations with any other to engage in acts or practices which jeopardize the public health, safety, or interest.

It is the purpose and policy of this chapter, in order to promote the full flow of commerce, to prescribe the legitimate rights of both employees and employers in their relations affecting commerce, to provide orderly and peaceful procedures for preventing the interference by either with the legitimate rights of the other, to protect the rights of individual employees in their relations with labor organizations whose activities affect commerce, to define and proscribe practices on the part of labor and management which affect commerce and are inimical to the general welfare, and to protect the rights of the public in connection with labor disputes affecting commerce.

\* \* \* \*



DEC 18 1989

F. SPANIOL, JR.  
CLERK

IN THE  
**Supreme Court of the United States**  
OCTOBER TERM, 1989

THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION  
OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,

*Petitioner,*

—v.—

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.,

*Respondent.*

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES  
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION**

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**QUESTION PRESENTED**

Whether the Rule 41(b) dismissal of petitioner's claims was justified by the district court's findings of fact, affirmed by the court of appeals as not clearly erroneous, (1) that respondent air carrier did not violate Railway Labor Act § 2, First by failing to bargain with petitioner as required, and (2) that petitioner's strike was not caused or prolonged by any illegal conduct and therefore should not be treated as an "unfair labor practice" strike entitling the strikers to reinstatement upon their unconditional offer to return to work, although they had been permanently replaced.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE
Question Presented .....	i
Table of Authorities .....	iii
Counterstatement of the Case .....	1
Counterstatement of the Facts.....	3
Reasons for Denying the Petition .....	7
I. The Courts' Application of the Correct Legal Standard to the Particular Facts of This Case Presents No Issue Warranting Review on the RLA Section 2, First Claim .....	7
II. The Decisions Below that There Was No Unfair Labor Practice Strike Are Based on a Factual Finding of No Causation.....	12
III. The Decisions Below Do Not Conflict with This Court's Decision in <i>Price Waterhouse</i> .....	15
Conclusion.....	18

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases:	PAGE
<i>Burner Sys. Int'l</i> , 273 N.L.R.B. 954 (1984) .....	13
<i>Chicago &amp; N.W. Ry. v. United Transp. Union</i> , 402 U.S. 570 (1971) .....	8, 9
<i>Chicago, R.I. &amp; P.R.R. v. Switchmen's Union</i> , 292 F.2d 61 (2d Cir. 1961), cert. denied, 370 U.S. 936 (1962) .....	9
<i>Emporium Capwell v. Western Addition Community Org.</i> , 420 U.S. 50 (1975).....	16
<i>Gahr v. Trans World Airlines</i> , No. 1986 CF 3141 (Ill. Dep't of Human Rights 1988) .....	17
<i>Japan Airlines v. Int'l Ass'n of Machinists</i> , 389 F. Supp. 27 (S.D.N.Y. 1975), aff'd, 538 F.2d 46 (2d Cir. 1976) .....	9
<i>Gagne v. Northwestern National Ins. Co.</i> , 50 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 601 (6th Cir. 1989) .....	16
<i>Latrobe Steel v. NLRB</i> , 630 F.2d 171 (3d Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 821 (1981).....	13
<i>Local 669 v. NLRB</i> , 681 F.2d 11 (D.C. Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1178 (1983).....	13
<i>NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.</i> , 462 U.S. 393 (1983) .....	14, 15
<i>NLRB v. Proler Int'l Corp.</i> , 635 F.2d 351 (5th Cir. 1981) .....	13
<i>NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.</i> , 351 U.S. 149 (1956).....	4
<i>Pacific Fruit Express Joint Protective Bd., Bh'd Ry. Carmen v. Union Pacific</i> , 826 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1987), cert. denied, 108 S. Ct. 2845 (1988) .....	11
<i>Pan American World Airways v. Int'l Bh'd of Teamsters</i> , 716 F.2d 726 (E.D.N.Y. 1989) .....	11

	PAGE
<i>Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins</i> , 109 S. Ct. 1775 (1989) ..	15, 16
<i>Soule Glass &amp; Glazing v. NLRB</i> , 652 F.2d 1055 (1st Cir. 1981).....	13
<i>Trans World Airlines v. Thurston</i> , 469 U.S. 111 (1985). .	17
<i>Virginian Ry. v. System Fed. No. 40</i> , 300 U.S. 515 (1937) ..	11
 <b>Statutes:</b>	
National Labor Relations Act	
29 U.S.C. §§ 151 <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
Railway Labor Act	
45 U.S.C. §§ 151 <i>et seq.</i> .....	<i>passim</i>
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964	
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e <i>et seq.</i> .....	3, 15, 16, 17
 <b>Rules:</b>	
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure	
Rule 41(b) .....	2

IN THE  
**Supreme Court of the United States**  
OCTOBER TERM, 1989

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THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION  
OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,

*Petitioner.*

—v.—

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.,

*Respondent.*

---

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES  
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

---

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION**

---

**COUNTERSTATEMENT OF THE CASE**

After two years of negotiations with Trans World Airlines, Inc. ("TWA")<sup>1</sup> for a new agreement, mostly under the mediatory supervision of the National Mediation Board ("NMB"), and on the eve of the expiration of the final thirty-day countdown period mandated in the negotiation process required by the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.* ("RLA" or the "Act"), petitioner Independent Federation of Flight Attendants ("IFFA") brought this action. It claimed that TWA had not bargained in accordance with the requirements of Section 2, First of the Act, and sought injunctive relief against prospective implementation by TWA of changed conditions of employ-

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<sup>1</sup> TWA has no parent company and no affiliates or subsidiaries, other than wholly-owned subsidiaries.

ment. The district court denied a temporary restraining order, but scheduled an early hearing on petitioner's motion for a preliminary injunction.

IFFA, however, then began a strike and TWA implemented changes in work rules and pay scales. Petitioner abandoned its motion for preliminary injunction, assertedly so that it could have the fullest possible hearing on its claim. It also amended its complaint to add the claim that its strike was the equivalent of an "unfair labor practice" strike under the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.* ("NLRA").

Petitioner had the full trial it sought: thirty-one days of hearings spread over five months, thousands of pages of testimony, thousands of pages of exhibits, hundreds of pages of briefs and proposed findings of fact, and a full day of oral argument on TWA's motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). The district court, having "attentively listened to the evidence and oral arguments . . . comprising some 7,000 pages of transcript and . . . immersed itself in documents and designations from depositions not read into evidence" (A 10),<sup>2</sup> granted TWA's motion, denying IFFA's claim for general reinstatement of the strikers.

The court of appeals summarized the district court's findings as follows:

The district court's decision contains several key determinations. First, the court held the disparity between the parties' bargaining positions, and not missing or misstated information, was the real barrier to agreement and the sole cause of the strike. In addition, the court ruled that economic considerations, rather than sexual discrimination, were the cause of the bargaining positions TWA took. The court also held TWA did not engage in sham or surface bargaining. Finally, the district court determined TWA's

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2 "A \_\_\_\_" refers to the appendix to the petition for certiorari in this case; "Pet. \_\_\_\_" refers to the pages of the petition; "S \_\_\_\_" refers to TWA's Supplemental Appendix submitted in opposition to IFFA's appeal from the decision of the district court.

general bargaining tactics were not in bad faith, and that its poststrike conduct did not prolong the strike.

(A 4; citations omitted)

The district court found, *as facts* (1) that TWA had a passionate desire to reach agreement with IFFA (A 60) (and thus did not violate its bargaining obligation under Section 2, First); (2) that any other violations of the Railway Labor Act which may have occurred, did not cause or prolong the strike (A 28) (and thus that the strike was not an "unfair labor practice" strike);<sup>3</sup> and (3) that sex discrimination was not a motivating factor in determination of the proposals that TWA made (A 65) (and thus that it need not consider whether sex-biased bargaining proposals, even if violative of Title VII, would also constitute a violation of the bargaining duty under the Railway Labor Act). Petitioner says it does not claim that these findings are clearly erroneous. This case is governed by those findings and, therefore, gives rise to no important question of law, novel or otherwise, to engage this Court's attention.

Petitioner says that it "embraces the facts as found by the district court", "as it did in the Court of Appeals". (Pet. 12) In truth, however, petitioner, as it did in the court of appeals, distorts and omits the basic findings in an effort to present novel questions of law to this Court. As the court of appeals recognized, "IFFA's arguments on appeal essentially express its dissatisfaction with the district court's decision to evaluate the evidence in a manner that does not coincide with its own." (A 4)

### COUNTERSTATEMENT OF THE FACTS

The district court decision contains an extensive recitation of the background and history of the negotiations between TWA and IFFA. As that court noted, the negotiations encompassed

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3 In light of this finding, the courts below found it unnecessary to rule on TWA's argument, going to the very essence of the amended claim, that NLRA principles with respect to "unfair labor practice" strikes do not apply to the RLA.

three distinct periods: initial negotiations in 1984-85; negotiation with Carl Icahn as a private investor seeking control of TWA, from June through August 1985; and negotiations with TWA after Icahn gained control, from December 1985 to March 1986.

The negotiations began in February 1984. From the outset, TWA made clear that, in addition to significant salary reductions, it needed comprehensive work rule changes that would result in greater productivity. In June, 1984 TWA supplied IFFA with extensive financial data showing that TWA had suffered an operating loss of \$72 million in the first quarter of 1984, placing it "dead last" among major carriers and that its flight attendant costs were the highest in the industry—more than 23% above the industry average for major airlines. IFFA never challenged this information.<sup>4</sup> (A 12-13) TWA's strategy was to expedite the negotiations toward early agreement. In contrast, IFFA's goal was to delay adverse changes, taking advantage of the RLA's requirement that the status quo be maintained throughout the statutory bargaining procedures.

In February 1985, based in part on the expectation of improved economic conditions, TWA decided to "go for a deal" by significantly reducing its proposals. (A 13) TWA reduced its demands by approximately one-half, eliminating its proposal for a 16% wage cut and deleting some 17 proposals for work rule changes. (A 14) Although IFFA recognized, and told its membership, that "TWA wants a contract NOW", it attacked TWA's remaining minimal demands as "outrageous" (S 1409-10a), and asked the NMB to release it from further negotiations in May 1985 so that it could strike during TWA's peak season. The NMB, however, recessed negotiations when TWA became the object of corporate takeover efforts. (A 15-16)

To thwart a pending merger agreement between Frank Lorenzo and TWA, TWA's three major unions, the Air Line

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<sup>4</sup> Thus, TWA did supply IFFA with precisely the type of information dealt with in *NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.*, 351 U.S. 149 (1956), and the other cases cited by IFFA. (Pet. 24)

Pilots Association ("ALPA"), the International Association of Machinists ("IAM") and IFFA, turned to Icahn as a prospective "white knight". Icahn, from the beginning, told the unions that in order to attract lenders for his acquisition, he needed a 20% reduction in overall labor costs and urged a speedy resolution.<sup>5</sup> Belying IFFA's allegations of sex discrimination (the employee groups represented by ALPA and the IAM being predominantly male), Icahn requested an identical 20% reduction in pay and benefits from each union. (A 17) ALPA agreed immediately and was later persuaded to accept a 26% reduction when it appeared that the IAM would not agree to more than a 15% reduction.

Icahn urged IFFA's president, Victoria Frankovich, to attend a meeting over the weekend of August 3 and 4, 1985, at which he hoped to finalize agreements with all three unions—spreading the total concessions he sought among the three unions in such manner as they would agree among themselves—and thus permit him to complete stock purchases assuring him of control of TWA. (A 17-19) Frankovich said she was unavailable, and Icahn agreed to meet with her separately on Friday August 2. Icahn asked IFFA to agree to his original request for a 20% reduction in wages and benefits since his prospective 15% agreement with the IAM was a function of whatever concessions greater than 20% ALPA was willing to give. Frankovich insisted that IFFA would not go beyond the 15% that Icahn expected from the IAM,<sup>6</sup> and arguments turned bit-

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5 As the district court held, negotiations with Icahn as a potential investor were not subject to the RLA, nor was TWA legally responsible for Icahn's proposals or actions (A 16), even if there had been anything improper in those dealings. Contrary to IFFA's suggestion that its members were "targeted for recoupment of the debt incurred" by Icahn in the takeover (Pet. 12), Icahn's proposals were needed to present a profitable balance sheet to attract investors and accomplish the very acquisition the unions sought.

6 Significantly Frankovich admitted that at the very first meeting with Icahn, IFFA did not insist on parity with the IAM but indicated it would agree to a 5% productivity savings in addition to a 10% wage reduction while the IAM opposed any concession but suggested it could agree to a 10% reduction in exchange for equity. (Trial Tr. 3907)

ter over the question whether IFFA was entitled to parity with the IAM. While no agreement was reached with IFFA, Icahn did reach agreement with the IAM and ALPA over the weekend and completed the purchase of a majority interest in TWA stock on Monday August 5 in reliance on those two agreements.

After contracts with ALPA and IAM had been concluded, and Icahn had acquired control of TWA, the airline's financial condition and prospects, for reasons unrelated to the change of control, radically deteriorated. Responsive to those new conditions, on December 4, 1985, TWA made a new comprehensive proposal to IFFA seeking a 22% reduction in pay and major changes in work rules, essentially seeking to make flight attendant work rules congruent with pilot work rules. (A 31) Although most of the February 1984 work rule proposals originally made by TWA were reintroduced, several were dropped or modified in a manner favorable to IFFA. The district court expressly found that the increase in TWA's demands was fully justified. (A 20) IFFA vehemently opposed TWA's proposals, particularly for work rule changes, erroneously believing that TWA would ultimately drop many of those demands and settle for a total savings of about 20%. (S 563-64)

On the last day of negotiations, the principal move was made by TWA. It reduced its proposal for a pay reduction by 5% to 17%, dropped a proposal that IFFA had identified as a particular obstacle to agreement, and offered a no furlough agreement if IFFA agreed to certain work rule changes. (A 29) Although IFFA ultimately offered a 15% pay reduction, there remained unbridgeable differences regarding major work rule changes resulting in an estimated dollar gap of some \$30-40 million. (A 29) Thus, the procedures of the Act having been exhausted, the parties were left to resolve their differences through economic self-help.

## REASONS FOR DENYING THE PETITION

Petitioner has selectively chosen a handful of statements from the evidence or from the district court's decision and, through distortion or the elimination of context, reargues the evidence in an effort to have this Court reach different findings from those of the two courts below. Chief among those distortions are IFFA's claims that there is a "direct admission that sex-biased considerations were a substantial motivating factor" for Icahn (Pet. 15), that the court held that Section 2, First of the RLA does not require a carrier to provide relevant information (Pet. 23-26), and that the district court found "many instances of misconduct" by TWA (Pet. 28). In fact, the district court unambiguously stated that "[t]here has been no persuasive showing that sex stereotyping governed or influenced Icahn's economic demands" (A 65), and that "the legal duty to supply information is [not] a dead letter" and "the doors of the courthouse remain[ed] open" to IFFA's claims concerning TWA's refusal to supply information (A 50); it made no finding whatever concerning the unspecified "many instances of misconduct" but concluded that, assuming *arguendo* the "various claims of misconduct in bargaining by TWA prior to the strike" occurred, they were not the cause of the strike (A 28). In short, the facts found do not permit formulation, much less require resolution, of the "Questions Presented" by petitioner.

### I. THE COURTS' APPLICATION OF THE CORRECT LEGAL STANDARD TO THE PARTICULAR FACTS OF THIS CASE PRESENTS NO ISSUE WARRANTING REVIEW ON THE RLA SECTION 2, FIRST CLAIM

The district court found that TWA was "'passionately' eager to make . . . an agreement with IFFA" and that "[s]hort of making his proposals more palatable . . . there was little more that Icahn could have done to demonstrate his desire for a contract." (A 60) Furthermore, the court found that TWA's demands were "honestly advanced to meet perceived needs" (A 33), and were neither "so grossly excessive that they exceeded

the wide range of reasonableness" (A 30) nor "governed or influenced" by "sex stereotyping" (A 65). Finally, the court found the evidence clear that TWA was not engaged in "sham or surface bargaining." (A 32) Based on these findings, the conclusion that TWA did not violate RLA § 2, First is entirely unremarkable and consistent with every other decision regarding alleged bad faith bargaining under the Railway Labor Act.<sup>7</sup>

The district court recognized that *Chicago & N.W. Ry. v. United Transp. Union*, 402 U.S. 570 (1971), is "[t]he case which opens the courthouse door here." (A 36) There, a majority of this Court held that the duty, under RLA § 2, First, to exert every reasonable effort to make agreements was judicially enforceable, at least to the extent that it prohibits a party from going "through the motions with 'a desire not to reach an agreement' ". 402 U.S. at 578 (citation omitted). The Court, however, stated "two caveats": "First, parallels between the duty to bargain in good faith and the duty to exert every reasonable effort, like all parallels between the NLRA and the Railway Labor Act, should be drawn with the utmost care and with full awareness of the differences between the statutory schemes"; and "[s]econd, great circumspection should be used

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7 IFFA's claims that the district court failed to consider the "totality of conduct in assessing the question of requisite intent" (Pet. 29) and "rejected IFFA's claim of surface bargaining on an analysis of TWA's proposals" (Pet. 30), ignore the unprecedented, lengthy and meticulous examination in depth which the district court gave to the two years of negotiations. The court expressly considered alleged violations barred by the statute of limitations because they might have "probative value" (A 43), considered IFFA's negotiations with Icahn as a private investor because they might be important "in appraising the renewed sessions . . . after Icahn became the controlling stockholder in TWA" (A 16) and considered TWA's post-strike conduct because "it may have a bearing on the question of TWA's prior good faith bargaining" (A 34). It was precisely because the court *did* consider the "totality of conduct," including the "three best prospects for settlement" that IFFA had, and spurned, that it was able "confident[ly]" (A 50) to identify the cause of the strike as IFFA's refusal to accede to work rule changes, and not be misled by red herring contentions such as sex discrimination or the failure to produce estimates of projected savings. IFFA's claims simply reflect its disagreement with the court's assessment of the totality of the conduct.

in going beyond cases involving 'desire not to reach agreement,' for doing so risks infringement of the strong federal labor policy against governmental interference with the substantive terms of collective-bargaining agreements." 402 U.S. at 579 n.11.<sup>8</sup> Synthesizing virtually every other case considering the Section 2, First obligation (A 37-41), the district court concluded that "the general procedural standards for surveillance of bargaining under the RLA have been generally equated with those under the NLRA, with emphasis, however, on the precautions announced in *C&NW.*"<sup>9</sup> (A 40)

There is no basis for IFFA's claim that the lower courts interpreted the RLA as imposing a "lesser obligation" to reach an agreement than required by the NLRA<sup>10</sup>. (Pet. 21) The district

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8 Four members of the Court, in a dissenting opinion by Justice Brennan, concluded that the RLA "excludes any role for the judiciary to oversee the relative efforts of the parties in their mutual attempt to reach settlement." 402 U.S. at 599.

9 This holding does not conflict with the decisions of the Second Circuit cited by petitioner. In *Chicago, R.I. & P.R.R. v. Switchmen's Union*, 292 F.2d 61 (2d Cir. 1961), cert. denied, 370 U.S. 936 (1962), decided before *Chicago & N.W. Ry.*, the court simply assumed, without analysis, that the RLA imposes a somewhat greater duty to endeavor to reach agreement than the NLRA. Nonetheless, finding "nothing in [the bargaining] history to show the Union simply went through the motions of bargaining" and nothing in the Act requiring a party to accept a proposal or make a concession (*id* at 70), the court reversed an order enjoining the Union from striking. Although the assumption was repeated by a district court in *Japan Airlines v. Int'l Ass'n of Machinists*, 389 F. Supp. 27, 34 (S.D.N.Y. 1975), aff'd on other grounds, 538 F.2d 46 (2d Cir. 1976), that court also held that the ultimate question is "whether the party charged with violation of its duty has merely gone through the motions of compliance . . . without a desire to reach an agreement." The "desire to reach agreement" standard comes directly from this Court's decision in *Chicago & N.W. Ry.* and was the precise inquiry made by the court below. It would be hard to conceive of a greater duty than to be "passionately eager" to reach agreement.

10 IFFA also contends that the decisions below subject RLA bargaining to "lesser scrutiny" than NLRA negotiations. (Pet. 22) The district

court found not only that TWA was “ ‘passionately’ eager” to reach an agreement, but that “Icahn’s personal conduct . . . shows a purpose to achieve agreement . . . .” (A 50 n.14) The evidence did “not permit a conclusion that Icahn sought a strike or was unwilling to negotiate” (A 32) and fell “considerably short of supporting a conclusion that Icahn planned [a strike], hoped for such a result or happily saw his hopes realized on March 6 and 7, 1986” (A 33-34). Nor were the hallmarks of bad faith bargaining under the NLRA present in this case: TWA did not have a “take it or leave it” stance; it did not refuse to modify its proposals or consider IFFA’s counter-proposals; did not denigrate IFFA’s status as bargaining representative; did not insist upon contractual provisions giving it unilateral control over working conditions or depriving the Union of its ability to represent employees; did not cancel bargaining sessions or otherwise refuse to confer with IFFA<sup>11</sup>; and did not press nonmandatory subjects of bargaining to impasse. On those facts and findings, no conclusion of bad faith bargaining would be drawn under the NLRA.

IFFA asserts that in addition to “surface bargaining” (which the court here held was prohibited but found was not proved), the NLRA prohibits *per se* violations, defined by IFFA as

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court noted that “[a] requirement of ‘blow-by-blow’ fact-finding, as sometimes mandated in NLRA cases” (Pet. A 40 n.10) is not appropriate under the RLA, but nevertheless allowed IFFA to present a blow-by-blow account of the entire course of negotiations. Any scrutiny under the RLA occurs against the background of the differences in the two statutory schemes including the typically longer duration of RLA negotiations, the RLA’s requirement of mandatory mediation under the supervision of the NMB, and Congress’ deliberate failure to provide a specialized tribunal, equivalent to the NLRB, to adjudicate claims of improper bargaining. (A 57)

11 IFFA’s claim that the decisions below establish a legal principle contrary to the Court’s decision in *Virginian Ry. v. System Fed. No. 40*, 300 U.S. 515 (1937), (Pet. 27) is without merit. TWA did not bargain with ALPA as the representative of flight attendants, and, as the court found, the Icahn-ALPA agreement was not a “rigid agreement” which prevented TWA from agreeing with IFFA to more or less than the target figure. (A 51)

"refusals to bargain *in fact* which, considered alone and irrespective of other bargaining conduct are inherently destructive of the bargaining process" (Pet. 22; emphasis in original) and that the district court concluded "that there is no such thing as a *per se* violation of § 2, First" (Pet. 23). The only "*per se* violation" of the NLRA duty to bargain IFFA identifies is "a refusal to provide relevant information." (Pet. 24) But the district court here *did* find an obligation in the RLA to supply information and that a refusal to do so could be a violation of that Act. (A 45 n.11) Such an obligation, if it exists, can only flow from Section 2, First.<sup>12</sup>

The "information" IFFA sought was, for the most part, TWA's estimates of the savings to be achieved by each proposal. The district court found, however, that "[b]asic financial estimates regarding the TWA proposals have generally been supplied."<sup>13</sup> (A 25) With minor exception, TWA gave IFFA all

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12 In finding that any failure by TWA to give information was not a cause of the strike, the district court expressed its disinclination to rely solely on the Ninth Circuit's holding in *Pacific Fruit Express Joint Protective Bd., Bh'd Ry. Carmen v. Union Pacific*, 826 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1987), cert. denied, 108 S. Ct. 2845 (1988), that there is no obligation under the RLA to produce relevant information at the request of the bargaining representative. The analysis employed by the court in *Pacific Fruit* is applicable to negotiation as well as arbitration. See *Pan American World Airways v. Int'l Bh'd of Teamsters*, 716 F. Supp. 726 (E.D.N.Y. 1989). Indeed, the Question Presented by the petition for certiorari in *Pacific Fruit* was "[w]hether § 2, First of the Railway Labor Act . . . imposes a statutory duty upon a carrier to furnish to the union, upon request, information needed by the union to fulfill its statutory role as exclusive collective bargaining agent under the Railway Labor Act." (Petition for Certiorari in No. 87-1525).

13 IFFA does not claim that it was denied hard information such as the actual cost of existing wages and work rules, comparisons with other airlines, hours worked, and the like, nor did it dispute the accuracy of that information. Indeed, the data supplied by TWA was confirmed by IFFA's own consultant. (A 13) TWA had been reluctant in the early stages of negotiation to give detailed savings projections for each proposal because such calculations are necessarily speculative and in the

the estimates it had regarding its December 1985 proposals by December 4. IFFA never pursued any questions concerning those estimates until eight weeks later, after it learned release by the NMB was imminent.

Any doubt that "the issue of missing information was not the real impediment to agreement" (A 26) was dispelled by the advice of IFFA's counsel to TWA's chief negotiator in a private meeting in January 1986 not to be "concerned about the numbers", *i.e.*, the estimated savings details (A 25-26). The court's findings make clear that, in view of IFFA's adamant refusal even to consider the major work rule changes TWA wanted, it was not useful or relevant to the prospects for an agreement to furnish savings estimates of the subparts of those proposals (which, in any event, TWA did not have). Thus, the court found, "[n]o information sought from TWA could likely result in flight attendants accepting the work rules concessions that would have filled the chasm between TWA's evaluation of IFFA's best offer . . . and the minimum sought by Icahn." (A 27)

## **II. THE DECISIONS BELOW THAT THERE WAS NO UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE STRIKE ARE BASED ON A FACTUAL FINDING OF NO CAUSATION**

The main thrust of IFFA's complaint, and what it tried to prove at trial, was that unlawful conduct by TWA caused or prolonged the strike so that striking flight attendants, by analogy to NLRA concepts, could be considered "unfair labor practice" strikers with a right to reinstatement upon their unconditional offer to return to work. Accepting NLRA norms for purposes of decision, the court determined that the strike was neither caused nor prolonged by any unlawful conduct by

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past such an exercise had led to time-wasting arguments over the savings from proposals IFFA had adamantly refused even to consider. IFFA's argument, by taking statements from the district court's decision out of context, makes it appear that this reluctance continued through the third stage of negotiation, when the court found that it did not.

TWA. The "sole cause of the impasse was the wide divergence between the demands of TWA (Icahn) and the more modest concessions proposed by IFFA." (A 28-29) "[N]o informational disclosures . . . could have materially affected the negotiations, if known earlier." (A 27) "The various claims of misconduct in bargaining by TWA prior to the strike . . . fall short . . . of even plausibly being a cause of the impasse." (A 28) "IFFA does not suggest any date for any unlawful event that so antagonized the strikers as to convert what was hypothetically an economic strike into a more protected strike." (A 34)

It is well settled that, under the NLRA, "[t]he mere fact that an unfair labor practice is committed prior to the strike does not necessarily render that strike an unfair labor practice strike." *Latrobe Steel v. NLRB*, 630 F.2d 171, 181 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 821 (1981). To be an unfair labor practice strike, "[t]here must be evidence of a causal link between the unfair labor practice and the strike." *NLRB v. Proler Int'l Corp.*, 635 F.2d 351, 354 (5th Cir. 1981). "Mere awareness of unfair labor practices is insufficient to establish this causal connection." *Local 669 v. NLRB*, 681 F.2d 11, 20 (D.C. Cir. 1982), *cert. denied*, 459 U.S. 1178 (1983). The NLRB's general counsel must establish that unlawful conduct occurred *and* that it caused the strike. See *Soule Glass & Glazing v. NLRB*, 652 F.2d 1055, 1100 (1st Cir. 1981).

None of the cases cited by IFFA suggest that if there is a refusal to provide information, any strike that follows is *per se* an unfair labor practice strike. The law is clearly to the contrary. *Soule Glass & Glazing v. NLRB*, 652 F.2d 1055, 1100 (1st Cir. 1981); *Latrobe Steel v. NLRB*, 630 F.2d 171 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 821 (1981); *Burner Sys. Int'l*, 273 N.L.R.B. 954 (1984).<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> The court held that the strike was not an "unfair labor practice strike" because "[l]ack of information did not trigger or unleash the strike" (A 49) and was not a cause of the impasse (A 28). On the evidence, this conclusion was inescapable. In an 89-page memorandum written to set the guidelines for the Union's course in negotiations, IFFA's counsel set forth a blueprint for IFFA's bargaining strategy of delay, including extensive questioning as to each of TWA's proposals,

The district court meticulously examined the record for evidence that conduct equivalent to an unfair labor practice was a factor in causing or prolonging the strike. (A 44) While accepting IFFA's claim that certain alleged conduct could violate the RLA (A 34, 45 n.11), the court found that no such conduct by TWA either caused or prolonged IFFA's strike. Where, as here, the determination of lack of causation is not clearly erroneous and the decision has no impact beyond the litigants, there is no reason to grant certiorari.

IFFA does not address the finding that no improper conduct caused or prolonged the strike. Instead, it relegates to the final footnote of its petition its argument that no lawful impasse can occur "when the deadlock is caused, as obviously the case herein, by one party's bad faith bargaining"<sup>15</sup> (Pet. 29 n.22) and maintains that TWA had the burden of proving that the strike was an economic one as an affirmative defense under the type of mixed-motive analysis approved in *NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp.*, 462 U.S. 393 (1983). That argument, of course, ignores the central finding that TWA did not bargain in bad faith. (A 54) As petitioner acknowledges, under

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and noted that at some point IFFA might be in a position to file a lawsuit to compel TWA to produce information. (A 11) Pursuant to this strategy, when IFFA sought release from negotiations in May 1985, it simultaneously sent TWA a lengthy request for detailed estimates of anticipated savings from TWA's February 1985 proposals. The district court found that "one major motivation for the blanket request seems to have been the creation of a record for possible litigation . . ." (A 16) This same strategy was clearly behind IFFA's request, dated January 30, 1986, for detailed estimated savings "information" on each of TWA's December 1985 proposals, separately presented by subpart, with explanations of all calculations made in valuing the proposal. That request was not made until IFFA learned that release by the NMB was imminent. Significantly, no lawsuit has ever been brought to compel TWA to produce information. As the district court noted, "[s]imply collecting a series of unanswered questions over a two-year period of negotiations will not suffice to establish the existence of an unfair labor practice strike." (A 51)

15 Under the RLA, the right to engage in self-help is not based on the concept of "impasse" but on release by the NMB.

*Transportation Management*, the employer bears the burden to show that it would have acted in the same manner for wholly legitimate reasons *only after* adverse action has been shown to have been based in part on improper conduct<sup>16</sup> (Pet. 28), a showing IFFA was unable to make.

### III. THE DECISIONS BELOW DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THIS COURT'S DECISION IN *PRICE WATERHOUSE*

The district court found that “[t]here has been no persuasive showing that sex stereotyping governed or influenced Icahn's economic demands . . .”<sup>17</sup> (A 65; emphasis added) Thus the decisions below in no way conflict with *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, 109 S. Ct. 1775 (1989), even if the teaching of that case, with respect to individual employment discrimination under Title VII, could be read as having any bearing on bargaining obligations under the RLA.

In *Price Waterhouse*, this Court approved a “mixed-motive” analysis for use in those Title VII cases where the plaintiff has demonstrated that sex was a motivating factor in an adverse employment decision. The plurality and concurring opinions hold that a defendant bears the burden of proving that it would have made the same decision absent a discriminatory motive

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16 In the district court's view, if unlawful conduct had played any part in triggering or prolonging the strike, apparently it would have been an unfair labor practice strike (A 44), whether or not the strike would have occurred anyway. Clearly then, the court found no proof of the “true causation” which was required “before what appears to be an economic strike should be reclassified as an unfair labor practice strike.” (A 45; footnote omitted)

17 IFFA's repeated assertions that TWA or Icahn was “shown to have based adverse action on invidious stereotype perception” (Pet. 14), “admi[tted] that sex-biased considerations were a substantial motivating factor” (Pet. 15), “admitted discriminatory *animus*” (Pet. 16), admitted “acting (at least in part) on the basis of such an invidious perception” (Pet. 16), and was “shown to have been acting at least in part due to a discriminatory *animus*” (Pet. 17), are completely contrary to the court's findings that sex discrimination was not a motivating factor.

only if the plaintiff first "satisf[ies] the factfinder that it is more likely than not that a forbidden characteristic played a part in the employment decision . . ." *Id.* at 1798 n.12. In the instant case, IFFA did not satisfy the district court that gender played *any* part in the proposals that TWA (or Icahn) made.<sup>18</sup>

Nothing in *Price Waterhouse* suggests that a mixed-motive case is made out whenever a plaintiff points to a gender-based statement. To the contrary, the plurality expressly rejected such a contention, stating that "[r]emarks at work that are based on sex stereotypes do not inevitably prove that gender played a part in a particular employment decision. The plaintiff must show that the employer actually relied on her gender in making its decision." 109 S. Ct. at 1791. See *Gagne v. Northwestern National Ins. Co.*, 50 Fair Empl. Prac. Cas. (BNA) 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1989) (supervisor's statement that he "needed younger blood" "was clearly insufficient to invoke the application of the recently enunciated *Price Waterhouse* standard"). Caution in attributing motivation is particularly necessary where, as here, the statement relied upon was made during collective bargaining because, in an effort to persuade, a party will often take positions and make arguments that do not reflect its true motivation.

IFFA's contention that the decisions below upset the harmony between Title VII and the federal labor laws (Pet. 18-19) is premised on an impermissible garbling of employment discrimination and collective bargaining standards. A finding of a violation of Title VII does not compel a finding of a violation of Section 2, First. As this Court noted in *Emporium Capwell v. Western Addition Community Org.*, 420 U.S. 50, 73 (1975), "[i]n order to hold that employer conduct violates § 8(a)(1) of

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18 Contrary to IFFA's argument, the alleged "breadwinner" statement was not a factor at a "*moment of decision*" (Pet. 16; emphasis in original), apart from the invalidity of the notion of a decisive moment in a course of collective bargaining over two years. As the court found, the statement "was a . . . rationalization, having no probable relationship with Icahn's true rationale. . . ." (A 66) At the time of those remarks in August 1985, moreover, Icahn was not even seeking any of the work rule changes—originally proposed by TWA in February 1984—that were the central issue in the strike that began in March 1986.

the NLRA because it violates § 704(a) of Title VII, we would have to override a host of consciously made decisions well within the exclusive competence of the Legislature." In any event, this case does not present that question. Since the district court found that discrimination was not a motive of TWA's proposals, it had no occasion to decide the extent of collectively represented employees' "protection against invidious sex-motivated employment conditions" (Pet. 19) and the decision cannot be read as "immunizing [airlines] from a finding of employment discrimination"<sup>19</sup> (Pet. 19).

IFFA suggests to this Court, without authority or factual support, that TWA engaged in improper bargaining based on disparate treatment of employees in different bargaining units. IFFA's comparison of flight attendants with IAM-represented employees is an attempt to prove its members' comparable worth to the IAM's, not to show that similarly situated employees in the same bargaining unit were treated disparately because of their sex. Moreover, IFFA's comparable worth theory of sex discrimination is disproved by comparison to the predominantly male pilots who incurred a larger wage cut, in both absolute dollar and percentage value than TWA's March 6, 1986 offer to IFFA of a 17% cut (A 29), while working under similar work rules to those offered to, but rejected by, IFFA.

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19 Petitioner does not, indeed cannot, support its argument that the employment discrimination laws are incapable of protecting collectively represented employees from discrimination. (Pet. 18 n.17) Federal courts do not allow the RLA bargaining process to override proved discrimination. See *TWA v. Thurston*, 469 U.S. 111 (1985). IFFA omits to mention, moreover, that it has in fact pursued its discrimination claim, but the EEOC, like the courts below, found:

The preponderance of the evidence indicates [TWA's] decision was based on economic considerations of profitability and competitiveness, and on the results of its negotiations with the three bargaining agents for its employees rather than on the sex of the memberships of the various bargaining units.

(S 30) Similar findings were made by the Illinois Department of Human Rights (*Gahr et al. v. TWA*, No. 1986 CF 3141 (July 22, 1988)). An action by IFFA alleging violation of Title VII and the ADEA is pending in the district court. (*Miller v. TWA*, No. 87-6063-CV-SJ-6 (W.D. Mo. 1987)).

Conclusion

There is no compelling issue of national labor policy here and no conflict between the circuits. This is simply a case in which the facts have been found against petitioner and nothing is presented to warrant review by this Court. The petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 15, 1989

Supreme Court, U.S.

FILED

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CLERK

No. 89-783

IN THE

**Supreme Court of the United States**  
OCTOBER TERM, 1989

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INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS,  
*Petitioner,*  
v.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.,  
*Respondent.*

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On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Eighth Circuit

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**PETITIONER'S REPLY BRIEF**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
A. TWA's Efforts To Distinguish This Court's Decision In <i>Price-Waterhouse</i> Are Based Upon Distortion Of Both That Decision And This Case .....	1
B. TWA Has Misstated Facts. Under The Correct Legal Standard As Applied To The Facts Of This Case, IFFA's Petition Should Be Granted .....	4

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases	Page
<i>Bose Corp. v. Consumers Union of United States, Inc.</i> , 466 U.S. 485 (1984) .....	5
<i>Consolidated Rail Corp. v. RLEA</i> , — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 2477 (1989) .....	8
<i>County of Washington v. Gunther</i> , 452 U.S. 161 (1981) .....	1
<i>Danzl v. North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Indep. School Dist. No. 622</i> , 706 F.2d 813 (8th Cir. 1983) .....	5
<i>Gagne v. Northwestern National Ins. Co.</i> , 881 F.2d 309, 50 F.E.P. 601 (BNA) (6th Cir. 1989) .....	3
<i>NLRB v. Columbia Tribune Publishing Co.</i> , 495 F.2d 1384 (8th Cir. 1974) .....	10
<i>NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.</i> , 351 U.S. 149 (1956).....	7
<i>Northern Wire Corp. v. NLRB</i> , 887 F.2d 1313 (7th Cir. 1989) .....	10
<i>Pacific Fruit Express Joint Protective Bd. v. Union Pacific</i> , 826 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1987), cert. denied, 108 S.Ct. 2845 (1988).....	8
<i>Price-Waterhouse v. Watkins</i> , — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1775 (1989) .....	3
<i>Schnellbaecher v. Baskin Clothing Co.</i> , 887 F.2d 124 (7th Cir. 1989) .....	3
<i>United States v. United States Gypsum Co.</i> , 333 U.S. 364 (1948) .....	5
<i>Western Contracting Corp. v. The Dow Chemical Corp.</i> , 664 F.2d 1097 (8th Cir. 1981) .....	5
 Statutes	
<i>Civil Rights Act of 1964</i> , Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, <i>et seq.</i> .....	3
<i>Railway Labor Act</i> , 45 U.S.C. §§ 151, <i>et seq.</i>	
Section 2, First, 45 U.S.C. 152, First .....	<i>passim</i>
 Rules	
<i>Rule 32(a)(3)(E)</i> Federal Rules of Civil Procedure .....	5
<i>Rule 52(a)</i> Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.....	4, 5

## PETITIONER'S REPLY BRIEF

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### A. TWA's Efforts To Distinguish This Court's Decision In *Price-Waterhouse* Are Based Upon Distortion Of Both That Decision And This Case.

TWA has chosen to mischaracterize IFFA's claim of impermissible sex-motivated bargaining as a "comparable worth" claim (Resp. 17).<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the mischaracterization—in view of the disfavor with which this Court has viewed the notion of "comparable worth", *County of Washington v. Gunther*, 452 U.S. 161 (1981)—is but a smoke screen improperly interjected solely to divert focus away from the real issue. As the district court noted, "IFFA has not attempted to prove a comparable worth case" (A. 64). This is a case involving the RLA § 2, First<sup>2</sup> obligation to exert every reasonable effort to make agreement, wherein there is *direct evidence* that TWA intentionally insisted on and imposed greater salary and work rule concessions on women because of their perceived status.

TWA ignores the record. In the critical negotiation between Icahn and IFFA, IFFA's principal negotiator said to Icahn:

The IAM does not only represent skilled employees. Assume that, in fact, flight attendants are not as skilled as mechanics. There are other work groups within this group [the IAM]<sup>3</sup> who you are agreeing

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent TWA's Brief in Opposition to the Petition for Certiorari is referred to as "Resp. —"; the Petition for Certiorari is referred to as "Pet. —". The Appendix to the Petition for Certiorari in this case is referred to as "A. —"; IFFA's Appendix submitted in its appeal to the Eighth Circuit is referred to as "App. —".

<sup>2</sup> Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. § 152, First.

<sup>3</sup> TWA argues that IFFA's [non-existent] comparable worth theory is disproved by a comparison to the predominantly male pilots. First of all, TWA compares the pilot wage cut *not* with

to a 15 percent cut for who are not as skilled as flight attendants,<sup>4</sup> either comparably skilled or lesser skilled . . . [W]hy would you agree to a 15 percent cut for a janitor and demand more from a flight attendant when we are paid about the same?

Icahn answered the question:

*A janitor is a breadwinner. He probably has got a family at home to support . . . [Y]ou girls [or stewardesses] . . . you are second incomes, and you don't need the money.* (App. C at 0666-67, emphasis supplied).

This is the testimony specifically credited by the district court (A. 18). Thereafter, and as found by the court, Icahn directed TWA's bargaining with IFFA, ordered

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the Flight Attendant cut *actually imposed* (22 percent)—but rather with a *temporary and withdrawn* offer of a lesser Flight Attendant wage cut. More importantly, TWA ignores its massive demands for work rule changes (over and above pay cuts) maintained and actually implemented against Flight Attendants. These work rule changes not only eliminated jobs but represented \$56-66 Million in labor savings extracted from Flight Attendants over and above wage cuts (Pet. 5). TWA acknowledged \$30-40 Million in work rule changes, over and above pay cuts (Resp. 6). Moreover, TWA ignores the fact that it offered “snapbacks” to the IAM and ALPA in exchange for the salary concessions; it refused to grant a “snap-back” to Flight Attendants (Pet. 4, n.3).

Worth noting as well, and contrary to its assertion (Resp. 6), TWA did *not* offer—and the district court did *not* find that TWA offered—a “no furlough agreement”. Adopting IFFA testimony, the court found that IFFA specifically asked Icahn if he was proposing a no furlough agreement, and Icahn replied “not the kind you mean.” The court added, “while it *cannot* be concluded that Icahn casually made a ‘priceless proposal’ as *TWA contends*, it will not be inferred that the statement lacked substance.” (A. 29-30, emphasis supplied). Indeed, as revealed by credited IFFA testimony (App. B at 0521-23 and App. C at 0722-27) and the notes of Icahn’s/TWA’s attorney (P. Ex. 546, App. H at 1869-70), Icahn said that work which then required 6000 Flight Attendants would now, with the new work rules, require only 3500.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed mechanics, the skilled segment of employees represented by the IAM, comprise a relatively small minority of the many job classifications represented by the IAM.

the withdrawal of previous and lesser TWA demands and the introduction of more onerous concessionary demands—which were indeed implemented (Pet. 4-7). As is clear, and noted by the court below, Icahn *was* the decision maker.

For that reason, and because his remarks *were* made in the critical phase of his negotiation with IFFA and were a direct response to the question asking why he was demanding more from Flight Attendants, they cannot be brushed aside as mere shop talk or “remarks at work” as maintained by TWA (Resp. 16).<sup>5</sup> Made by Icahn himself in direct discussion with IFFA, and repeated thereafter in the course of further such discussions (Pet. 4, at n. 4), they constitute direct admissions of unlawful motivation<sup>6</sup> prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, *et seq.* The question presented in IFFA’s Petition is whether, absent proof by affirmative defense, such action can nonetheless be held

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<sup>5</sup> TWA’s citation (Resp. 16) to *Gagne v. Northwest National Ins. Co.*, 50 F.E.P. (BNA) 601, 605 (881 F.2d 309) (6th Cir. 1989), is wholly inapposite. In *Gagne*, unlike this case, the employer introduced evidence of nondiscriminatory motivation for its adverse action against plaintiff: an earlier series of verbal and negative admonitions concerning work performance; a written reprimand; a written reproach; an oral warning; a critically negative written performance evaluation; and probation. This was sufficient evidence to rebut plaintiff’s *prima facie* case of age discrimination. Plaintiff attempted to meet her “burden of persuasion” on the basis of an earlier “solitary remark” made by a supervisor—a remark characterized by plaintiff herself as “isolated”, as “made facetiously” and in a meeting attended by a number of employees and “not directed at any particular individual.” That solitary remark was held insufficient, not as a “remark at work” under *Price-Waterhouse v. Watkins*, — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 1775 (1989), but rather on other grounds involving different considerations under other precedents. *Gagne* at 602, 604.

<sup>6</sup> An asserted reason for adverse job action, “that a woman is to make less than a man because a woman does not have to support a family”, has even recently been again held to support a claim for violation of Title VII. *Schnellbacher v. Baskin Clothing Co.*, 887 F.2d 124, 129-30 (7th Cir., October 5, 1989).

consistent with national labor policy concerning the collective establishment of wages, hours and working conditions as embodied in the Railway Labor Act.

**B. TWA Has Misstated Facts. Under The Correct Legal Standard As Applied To The Facts Of This Case, IFFA's Petition Should Be Granted.**

As set forth in IFFA's Petition, the district court's own findings of fact compel the conclusion that TWA (1) breached its § 2, First obligation to exert every reasonable effort to reach agreement and (2) caused the strike. It imposed greater salary and work rule concessions on Flight Attendants because they were perceived as "second incomes" rather than "breadwinners" (Pet. 4, 8-9, 13-19). It engaged in numerous instances of unjustified refusal to supply relevant information or answer relevant questions (Pet. 5-6, 10, 23-27). In addition, the district court generally accepted IFFA's other various claims of misconduct in bargaining [including, *inter alia*, written agreement with ALPA concerning concessions to be obtained by TWA from IFFA, thereby establishing rigidity in TWA's bargaining with IFFA; direct dealing with employees over employment terms; insistence on predictably unacceptable proposals (A. 14, 54-55); threats to liquidate the airline if IFFA prevailed (App. B at 0522; App. C at 0722, 0805-07; P. Ex. 546, App. H at 1869-72; P. Ex. 279-A, App. G at 1604-07; App. E at 1108-09; and D. Ex. 6F, App. L at 2746, 2758); disparagement of IFFA and its leadership (*e.g.*, P. Ex. 279-A, App. G at 1604-07); and implementation of changes not subjected to negotiation] (Pet. 3, 6, 10-11, 27-30).

As to TWA's assertions of other "facts" (many of which are not found in the decision below or the record), Rule 52(a), FRCP provides that "[f]indings of fact . . . shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous, and due regard shall be given to the opportunity of the trial court to judge the credibility of the witnesses" (emphasis supplied).<sup>7</sup> Factual findings are clearly erroneous if prem-

<sup>7</sup> The district court credited IFFA's testimony in virtually all instances (Pet. 4, n. 4).

ised upon a misconception of the law, or if the reviewing court on the entire record evidence is left with a definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been made. *United States v. United States Gypsum Co.*, 333 U.S. 364, 395 (1948); *Danzl v. North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Indep. School Dist. No. 622*, 706 F.2d 813, 818 (8th Cir. 1983). Questions of law are not subject to this standard. *Western Contracting Corp. v. The Dow Chemical Corp.*, 664 F.2d 1097 (8th Cir. 1981).<sup>8</sup> Although a court's factual findings are entitled to great deference, special deference is accorded to those findings based upon determinations regarding the credibility of witnesses. Both Rule 52(a) and Rule 32(a)(3)(E) emphasize the importance of oral testimony. See also, *Bose Corp. v. Consumers Union of United States, Inc.*, 466 U.S. 485, 501 (1984) ("The same 'clearly erroneous' standard applies to findings based on documentary evidence as to those based entirely on oral testimony . . . but the presumption [as to their correctness] has lesser force in the former situation than the latter").

Measured against proper legal standards, and in light of the lack of TWA evidence except for self-serving deposition designations not subjected to cross-examination on rebuttal, the following are examples of the court's erroneous findings based on misconceptions of law or on mixed findings of law and fact:

- (1) The court, without evidence, concluded that Icahn's breadwinner statements could not reveal motivation as it would thereby reflect implausible adherence, on the part of a capitalist and hard-boiled corporate raider, to a Marxist or utopian distribution scheme (Pet. 8-9, 14-16).
- (2) The court found many instances of unjustified refusal to provide relevant information; yet the

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<sup>8</sup> Unlike this case, the vast majority of cases wherein the standard is considered and applied are those wherein the court has had full opportunity to hear the oral testimony of both plaintiff's and defendant's witnesses.

court, again without evidence, concluded that this denial did not support a finding in IFFA's favor because no information sought "would have filled the chasm" between TWA demands and IFFA offers (Pet. 10).

- (3) The court generally accepted IFFA's other, various claims of misconduct in bargaining; it concluded that such misconduct did not violate the RLA because "such *misconduct would [only] have been directed toward tricking or coercing IFFA into making a bad bargain*" (Pet. 10-11).
- (4) The court noted that it was *prohibited* from "sitting in judgment upon the substantive terms of a proposed collective bargaining agreement"; it nonetheless determined that "the sole cause of impasse" was the wide divergence between TWA demands and IFFA offers, and framed as the basic factual issue whether TWA's ultimate demands had been shown to be beyond the range of reasonableness (Pet. 10-11).<sup>9</sup>

Except for its determinations that TWA refused to provide relevant information, engaged in misconduct best described as attempting to trick or coerce IFFA into a bad bargain, maintained predictably acceptable proposals, and entered into an agreement with ALPA tending to establish rigidity in TWA's dealings with IFFA in ways that may contravene public policy—the court, in its opinion, did not otherwise address the question of TWA's *effort* under § 2, First.

Within the limited space available, additional comments concerning TWA's Brief in Opposition are warranted.

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<sup>9</sup> The court thus limited its dispositive inquiry on the substance of the demands themselves, ignoring the process, manner and method by which those demands were *maintained*; § 2, First treats not with substance of positions taken, but with *effort* (i.e. the process, method and manner utilized) in reaching *agreement*.

- (1) Contrary to TWA (Resp. 4, n. 4), TWA did *not* supply IFFA with the type of information dealt with in *NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.*, 351 U.S. 149 (1956). *Truitt* dealt with corporate books and records, *i.e.* the basic, source proof of position; the limited information provided by TWA contained only unsubstantiated, unproven statements and assertions. Moreover, the "extensive financial data" referred to by TWA (Resp. 4) was *not* the information requested by IFFA, relating to TWA's specific proposals themselves.

An analysis of *Truitt* reveals TWA's breach of its statutory duty. In *Truitt*, the employer advanced a claim of inability to pay; the union requested *proof* of *that* claim, *i.e.* corporate books and records. TWA advanced the claim of a need for concessions in salary and work rules; as to work rules, it claimed that its demands would reduce 581 Flight Attendant heads, *i.e. jobs*. IFFA requested information (P. Ex. 50, App. F at 1277) as to *proof*, *i.e.* the calculation and method of calculation<sup>10</sup>;

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<sup>10</sup> TWA's calculations and method of calculating *are* the *proof* of its claims required by *Truitt*. TWA had advised IFFA that its demands would reduce Flight Attendant headcount (jobs) by 581 heads; it provided a breakdown as to the *number* of heads to be lost from each of the generally numbered proposals—but not from the many sub-proposals (TWA negotiating notes, App. I at 1977). IFFA questioned this information and feared that the proposals would cost even *more* jobs. For example, TWA's Proposal No. 4, Flex Cap, would require up to 10 more flight hours per month for over 5,000 employees (50,000 hrs./mo.)—and was said to cost only 45 *jobs*; its Proposal No. 11, Reserve Spread, would yield a maximum of 10 additional hours per month for some 550 reserves (5500 hrs./mo.)—and reduce 17 *jobs* (App. B at 0588-89; P. Ex. 140, App. G at 1467). The need for proof by explanation of calculation is readily apparent. Under the Flex Cap proposal, 5,000 employees x 10 hrs./mo. = 50,000 hrs./mo.; this increased flying (50,000 hours) + 85 (hrs./mo.) could reduce 588 (and *not* 45) heads. That disclosure of the calculations and method of calculations was required is further revealed by the fact that TWA's internal documents—discovered only in trial—reflected estimates of headcount reduc-

TWA refused that proof (A. 25)—insisting, in effect, on blind trust by IFFA.<sup>11</sup>

- (2) TWA's reliance on *Pacific Fruit Express Joint Protective Bd. v. Union Pacific*, 826 F.2d 920 (9th Cir. 1987) cert. denied, 108 S.Ct. 2845 (1988) is misplaced. That case involved a discovery request in a minor dispute (grievance arbitration), over which—unlike a major dispute (the making of agreement) involved in this case—federal courts are without jurisdiction; in minor disputes, of course, jurisdiction rests with the appropriate Adjustment Boards. *Consolidated Rail Corp. v. RLEA*, — U.S. —, 109 S.Ct. 2477, 2480-81 (1989).
- (3) TWA twice references Icahn's passionate eagerness to make an agreement (Resp. 3, 7). IFFA does not contest that Icahn was passionately eager for the terms he had dictated. But nothing less was considered. In the final hours before TWA's unilateral implementation, and the IFFA strike, Icahn threatened to liquidate the airline, told IFFA he only needed 3,500 employees to operate the airline, said that if Flight Attendants struck they would not come back and told IFFA's negotiators he was not going to negotiate on this deal (App. B at 0521-23; App. C at 0722-25; and P. Ex. 546, App. H at 1869 ff). In deposition testimony, Icahn testified that IFFA “never went over 50 [million in concessions] so it was sort of silly to even discuss [a reduced TWA proposal]” (Icahn Depo., App. J at 2126-28). Icahn also explained his refusal to compromise:

. . . I am a seasoned negotiator, . . . the only way I was going to get a deal, if there was

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tions, from its demands, ranging from 722 to 839 (Bryner Depo., App. K at 2323-24, 2378).

<sup>11</sup> TWA made and updated these calculations throughout the course of negotiation (Hoar Depo., App. K at 2558-61; Bryner Depo., Ex. H, App. K at 2382-85; Bryner Depo., Ex. G, App. K at 2378; Bryner Depo., App. K at 2332-33).

[a] deal to be made, look, this is it, I am going to give you a 17% reduction [referring to the earlier reduced salary demand], and that is it. That is as far as we go. I have been saying all along to have credibility . . . we can't go any lower, that is it. That is my way of negotiating.

*It would be silly for me—that would undermine my credibility to come down—she goes up a few million; for me to come down a few million would undermine my credibility.* (Icahn Depo., App. J at 2129-30, emphasis supplied).

- (4) In its efforts to rely on worsened financial condition and prospects (Resp. 6), TWA ignores facts. TWA's President, Richard Pearson, confirmed that with \$50 Million from Flight Attendants, TWA's profitability was assured in 1986 (Pearson Depo., App. J at 2294-96). Pearson acknowledged that, with savings from other groups, a \$40-\$50 Million concession from Flight Attendants would have yielded TWA a total of \$300 Million in labor savings—which was TWA's goal (Pearson Depo., App. J at 2278-79, 2292). IFFA indeed offered some \$50 Million in concessions prior to TWA's resort to self-help (App. B at 0569-70; Icahn Depo., App. J at 2126-28). In addition to Icahn's admission that his notion of his *credibility* prompted TWA's refusal to compromise (*supra*), Pearson likewise admitted that TWA insisted on even more from IFFA because to do otherwise "would have destroyed us with the other employees of the Company" who had made their expectations known as to concessions to be obtained from Flight Attendants (Pearson Depo., App. J at 2297-2301).
- (5) The court's conclusion that TWA's misconduct did not cause the impasse (A. 28, Resp. 13) is inextricably linked to its conclusion that TWA did not violate § 2, First. Reversal of the latter removes

the underpinnings and compels reversal of the former as well. An unfair labor practice strike is one caused or promoted, in whole or *in part*, by an employer's unfair labor practices. *NLRB v. Col. Trib. Publ. Co.*, 495 F.2d 1384 (8th Cir. 1974). Once unfair labor practices have been established and an impasse and strike have occurred, the employer, *at the very minimum*, has the burden, by way of affirmative defense, to prove that the strike would have occurred even absent its illegal conduct (Pet. 28-29). Indeed, the Seventh Circuit has held that a strike in such circumstances must be considered, *as a matter of law*, an unfair labor practice strike (rejecting a lesser standard otherwise applicable in mixed motive cases as referenced in Pet. 28-29). *Northern Wire Corp. v. NLRB*, 887 F.2d 1313, 1319-21 (7th Cir. 1989). Important questions are thus raised in this case by virtue of the courts' failure to impose *any* burden upon TWA in the face of its misconduct, the impasse and the strike.

Respectfully submitted,

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